NATION

Great Nicobar Project will ruin ecosystem: Ramesh to Centre

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Oil companies lost Rs 1L cr in 10 weeks amid Iran war

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SPORTS

Deepika leads women's recurve team to WC gold

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DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

سالار روزنامہ بنگلور

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Thalapathy in power: Vijay sworn in as TN CM

I will be the only power centre in TN, says Vijay in maiden speech

CHENNAI, 10 MAY

Just two years after forming his party, TVK chief C Joseph Vijay achieved what once seemed improbable, taking oath as Chief Minister on Sunday after TVK ended the decades-long dominance of DMK and AIADMK. The 51-year-old, widely known as 'Thalapathy', was sworn in following TVK's victory in the 23 April Assembly elections and the securing of majority support to form government.

Addressing a massive gathering at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Chennai, Vijay declared the beginning of a "new era of real secularism and social justice".

> **I know what poverty and hunger are...I was not born in a royal family. I am amongst you. I was born to an assistant director to achieve in films...I am not an angel but a common man. I will not promise what we cannot deliver...I request all of you to give me some time. I will gradually fulfil everything I have promised** —Vijay, TN CM

He said he came from humble origins, recalling his father's work as an assistant film director, and positioned himself as a common man elevated by people's trust.

"There is only one centre here, under my leadership. A power centre on this side, another on that side, none of that exists," he said, asserting a single command structure in his government. He added emphatically, "It is a new beginning... Now!" drawing thunderous applause.

Vijay said his journey had been marked by hardship and humiliation but credited the people for standing by him. He said that all 8 crore people of Tamil Nadu — supporters and critics alike, were his responsibility.

He also flagged what he described as a severe fiscal crisis, alleging that the previous government left behind a debt burden exceeding Rs 10 lakh crore and an empty treasury. He said his administration was taking charge under difficult financial stress.

Outlining priorities, Vijay promised strict action on women's safety, drug abuse, law and order, and said his government would focus on education, ration distribution, healthcare, drinking water, roads and transport infrastructure. "Every section of society will be taken care of," he said. Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi attended the ceremony along with other dignitaries.

However, DMK president MK Stalin rejected the fiscal claims, saying Tamil Nadu's debt remained "within permissible limits" and warning against misleading narratives, while also extending his wishes to the new Chief Minister. —*PTI*

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DMK elects Udhayanidhi as legislature party leader

DMK has elected former Deputy chief minister Udhayanidhi Stalin as the legislature party leader in the House. Party sources said on Sunday that former DMK minister and senior leader KN Nehru has been chosen as the deputy legislature party leader. In addition, former DMK minister E V Velu has been elected as the party whip. The DMK has 59 MLAs and will function as the principal opposition in the House.

TN anthem played after 'Vande Mataram'

The placement of the 'Tamil Thaai Vaazhthu' third in the order of songs at the swearing-in ceremony has triggered a controversy in Tamil Nadu. 'Vande Mataram' was sung first, followed by 'Jana Gana Mana', with the Tamil invocation rendered last. CPI leader M Veerapandian condemned the sequence, saying the Tamil anthem must be given due respect and traditionally opens official events. The issue comes months after Centre guidelines mandated the full rendition of 'Vande Mataram', written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1882. Notably, it was absent at the Bengal Chief Minister's swearing-in in Kolkata attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Free power, women's safety: Vijay's 1st act as CM

C Joseph Vijay on Sunday rolled out three major schemes on electricity, women's safety and drug eradication, fulfilling key poll promises after assuming office. He signed a government order granting 200 free units of electricity to domestic consumers using up to 500 units per two-month billing cycle. To enhance women's safety, the state will set up a 'Singa Pen Special Action Force' across Tamil Nadu, equipped with modern facilities for swift response to complaints; 'Singa Pen' means lioness, symbolising bravery. A total of 65 Anti-Narcotic Task Force units will also be formed, one in each district and additional units in nine major city police districts to curb drug-related crimes.

Cong is parasite that betrays people: Modi in B'luru

BENGALURU, 10 MAY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday attacked the Congress, accusing it of "failing" to provide good governance due to internal power struggles in Karnataka. It has become a "parasite party" that is "betraying" people, he charged.

Addressing a large gathering of BJP workers in the City, he referred to an alleged power tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his Deputy DK Shivakumar: "For the past three years in Karnataka, instead of resolving people's problems, most of the government's time here has been spent resolving internal conflicts. The Congress government remained gripped by uncertainty over leadership and power-sharing arrangements".

Modi said the Congress government invariably faced anti-incumbency within months because the party lacked a governance agenda. "This is because Congress only knows how to betray people. They are false themselves, and their guarantees are also false. There is no chapter on governance in Congress' book of power," he charged.

"They cannot decide how long the Chief Minister will remain," he quipped.

He added that the Congress had similarly betrayed its own leaders in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. Wherever the Congress is in power, there is instability and looting, he alleged. By contrast, the BJP would bring stability, he said.

Referring to the Congress-DMK relationship in neighbouring Tamil Nadu, he said the Congress had survived politically for years because of the DMK's support, but now "stabbed" the regional party "in its back" when power equations changed. The Congress extended support to the Vijay-led TVK. —*PTI*

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GELATINE STICKS FOUND NEAR PM'S ROUTE

Two gelatin sticks were recovered from a roadside near Prime Minister Narendra Modi's event venue on the outskirts of Bengaluru, prompting heightened security measures and a police investigation into the source of the explosives. Gelatin sticks were found not far from a route linked to the Prime Minister's movement schedule. Police sources said one person was detained for questioning and trying to ascertain the purpose of storing the gelatin sticks in the area. The police, bomb disposal squads and forensic personnel were rushed to the spot. —*PTI*

PM Narendra Modi with BS Yediyurappaa at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Airport in Bengaluru on Sunday —*SALAR NEWS*

K'taka Minister D Sudhakar no more

BENGALURU, 10 MAY

Karnataka Minister D Sudhakar died in the early hours of Sunday after a prolonged illness, a medical bulletin said. He was 66.

The planning and statistics minister breathed his last at the Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences here. He had been undergoing treatment for a lung infection for the past two months.

Sudhakar was a senior Congress leader and the MLA from Hiriyur in Chitradurga district.

Mourning his demise, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said he was saddened to hear about Sudhakar's death. He said when he met him in the hospital, he felt he would recover.

"Sudhakar was a person with immense concern and commitment towards public service. Such a person should have remained among the people for many more years. Despite the continuous efforts of doctors and the prayers of all of us, Sudhakar has left us today. This is an extremely painful moment," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said in a post on 'X'.

"Honourable Minister Mr Sudhakar D, 66 yrs old, was declared dead at 3.15 am on 10.05.2026 in Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, Electronic City," Dr R Chinnadurai, Medical Director of Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, said. Deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar condoled Sudhakar's death, saying it has caused "immense grief". —*PTI*

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WAR WITH INDIA 'BATTLE OF TWO IDEOLOGIES': MUNIR

ISLAMABAD, 10 MAY

Pakistan's Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir termed last year's war with India as a "battle between two ideologies."

Addressing a ceremony at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi on Sunday to mark the first anniversary of 'Marka-e-Haq', the name given by Islamabad to the four-day conflict with India, Munir also claimed that Pakistan's strategy was "superior."

In response to the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed, India launched Operation Sindoor on 7 May last year. The action triggered a rapid escalation in tensions, with Pakistan launching strikes, though most of them were neutralised by India.

The hostilities ended with an understanding on halting the military actions on May 10, 2025, following talks over the hotline between army officials of the two sides.

Munir said that India "violated the sovereignty and territorial integrity" of Pakistan on the night of 6-7 May and 10 May 2025, and added that Pakistan responded "with full military force."

Stating that future wars would be different due to their "multi-domain" nature, Munir said Pakistan is preparing for conflicts through acquring technology, hardware and training. —*PTI*

MOTHER'S LOVE

A mom feeds her child on Mother's Day in Jammu on Sunday. Celebrated on the second Sunday of May, the day honours mothers, and recognises the care and sacrifices that define motherhood —*PTI*

India must use petrol, diesel with restraint: PM

HYDERABAD, 10 MAY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged restraint in the use of petro products amid the West Asia crisis, saying the need of the hour is judicious consumption of imported fuel to conserve foreign exchange and reduce the impact of global conflict.

He also has urged citizens to adopt carpooling

Speaking at an event in Telangana, where he virtually laid the foundation stone and inaugurated projects worth around Rs 9,400 crore, Modi said petrol, diesel and gas should be used "only as needed". The remarks come as India faces an energy crunch following the US-Iran conflict, which has disrupted supplies through the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil transit route. India, the world's third-largest crude importer.

Oil prices have surged above $100 per barrel after heightened tensions in the region. Panic buying has been reported in some states, prompting police deployment at fuel stations, while rising LPG prices are adding pressure on the hospitality sector. —*PTI*

Iran responds to ceasefire proposal as blasts heard in Chabahar

DUBAI, 10 MAY

Iranian state media said that Tehran had submitted its response to the US ceasefire proposal through intermediaries Pakistan as blasts were heard in the city of Chabahar, while Kuwait and the UAE reported drone incursions while a ship was struck near Qatar. No casualties were reported in any of the attacks.

The blasts near Chabahar, which host India's strategic deepwater port project, were due to unexploded ordinances, Mehr News Agency stated. No details were available.

Meanwhile, Iran's response focuses on "ending the war imposed by the US and the Zionist regime (Israel) on all fronts, especially Lebanon", IRIB reported. The response is believed to be directed at the 14-point, one page memorandum that the US has tabled, but the details have were not made public at the time of publishing.

The memorandum calls for opening the Strait of Hormuz, through which around a fifth of the world's oil once flowed, and lifting of sanctions.

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LANCET REPORT

Many published medical articles cited non-existing studies

LONDON, 10 MAY

A major new study has raised concerns over the growing use of artificial intelligence in scientific publishing after researchers discovered thousands of fake citations in peer-reviewed medical papers.

The peer-reviewed research letter, "Fabricated citations: an audit across 2.5 million biomedical papers," published in The Lancet on 7 May 2026, found that nearly 3,000 biomedical research papers included references to scientific studies that did not exist. Researchers warned that the problem could damage confidence in medical science and may even affect patient care if false information is used in clinical decisions.

Scientists from the Columbia University School of Nursing analysed 2.5 million biomedical papers published between January 2023 and February 2026 in PubMed Central's Open Access database. Using an AI-supported verification system, they examined 97 million references cited in academic papers.

The researchers identified 4,046 fabricated citations appearing in 2,810 published papers. Many of the fake references looked convincing as they resembled genuine scientific citations.

The team said the number of fabricated references increased sharply from mid-2024 onwards, a period that also saw a rapid rise in the use of AI writing tools by students, researchers and academics. The study estimated that the rate of fake citations increased from about four per 10,000 papers in 2023 to around 57 per 10,000 papers by early 2026.

Lead researcher Topaz said the findings highlighted a serious challenge.

He warned that healthcare professionals, policymakers and researchers often rely heavily on medical literature while making decisions about treatments and future studies. —*Agencies*

—AI

Farmer leader calls for fencing ponds to stop drownings

KOLAR, 10 MAY

K Narayana Gowda, President of the Karnataka Ryot Sangha's district unit, has called on the district administration to make fencing around all farm ponds (Krishi Honda) mandatory to prevent drowning incidents. Speaking to the press, he highlighted that drowning, especially involving children, has increased recently. Gowda said the only way to prevent this is by installing fencing around the ponds. He added that ponds under the Krishi Bhagya scheme are covered with polythene sheets to prevent water absorption, but algae formation makes the surface slippery. With children on vacation, many tend to approach ponds and accidentally fall in. Gowda pointed out that despite warnings, some parents still take children near these ponds, risking their lives. *—SALAR NEWS*

Heavy rain likely in South Interior K'taka in 2-3 days

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has made a forecast for heat wave conditions at isolated regions over Gujarat and West Rajasthan. The department issued a red warning for thundersqualls with wind speeds reaching 60 to 80kmph over Bihar on Sunday. A red warning indicates extremely severe weather conditions, requiring immediate action, potential evacuations, and disruption to essential services IMD predicted heavy rainfall over Kerala, Lakshadweep, South Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Karaikal during the next two to three days. The weather agency also forecast thunderstorms and lightning over Odisha, Rayalaseema, Telangana, and South Interior Karnataka until tomorrow. Hot and humid weather is very likely to prevail at isolated places over Konkan and Goa. *—News on Air*

—ANI

Priyank to host Chilean Foreign Minister in City

BENGALURU, 10 MAY

Chilean Foreign Minister Francisco Perez Mackenna arrived in India on a seven-day official visit, aiming to strengthen bilateral ties and explore new cooperation avenues. Mackenna, who arrived in New Delhi on Saturday, is on his first official visit here from 9 to 15 May. He will stop in the City to meet IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge on Thursday. During his trip, Mackenna will attend high-level meetings, including the CII Annual Business Summit 2026, and meet Indian officials like External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, to explore collaboration in innovation and technology sectors. India and Chile share strong ties, particularly on climate change, renewable energy, and UN reforms. The MEA said the visit would further bolster India-Chile relations. *—ANI*

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Saffron sun is rising from B'luru: Modi

PM says Cong unable to resolve power sharing pacts, notes problems in Kerala

BJP's top leadership, including Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, BY Vijayendra, Pralhad Joshi, R Ashoka, Basavaraj Bommai and BS Yediyurappa greet Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the HAL airport, in City, on Sunday —SALAR

BENGALURU, 10 MAY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that a "saffron sun" was rising from Bengaluru amid the BJP's expanding political influence across the country, in remarks indicating the party's recent electoral triumphs in West Bengal, Assam Puducherry.

Modi said Karnataka had historically played a pivotal role in strengthening the BJP, even during the party's early years. "I can see that a saffron sun has risen today from the land of Bengaluru. Even when the BJP was not such a large party, Karnataka gave it tremendous strength," he said.

Modi noted that the BJP was now the number one party in Karnataka in terms of Lok Sabha representation and the second-largest force in neighbouring Telangana.

Pointing to the BJP's expansion in southern and eastern India, the PM said the party had moved from just three MLAs in West Bengal a decade ago to forming a government with more than 200 legislators now. "People are saying that they want speed, not scams; they want solutions."

By contrast, the Congress was filled with instability and unable to solve its internal power struggles.

He asked why the Congress did not form a government in Kerala despite having full majority in the recently held Assembly elections and alleged that Congress blamed everyone else for its defeats and displayed contempt towards constitutional institutions.

"In my entire public life, I have never seen any mainstream political party behave like this. They have sunk so deep into despair that they have no agenda left except using abusive language," he said.

Launching a sustained attack on the Congress leadership, Modi said the party, despite once winning more than 400 Lok Sabha seats, had failed to cross the 100-seat mark in the last three general elections.

He alleged that the Congress had betrayed its own leaders in states such as Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Karnataka by making promises over leadership arrangements and later reneging on them.

"The same game is still continuing in Karnataka. Now Kerala's turn has come," he said.

"Wherever Congress is in power, either the treasury is being looted to serve a royal court or there are internal fights over looted money. The Congress today has become known as a parasitic party. That is why, at the first opportunity, it betrays even its allies. Hence it is said that there is no one whom Congress has not deceived." *—PTI*

CM chair is stable, not wobbling: DKS hits back

RAICHUR, 10 MAY

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday categorically refuted PM Narendra Modi's remark suggesting that the CM's chair in the State was "wobbling."

Speaking to reporters at Lingasagur in Raichur, Shivakumar, who is also the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) President, said, "No chairs are wobbling in Karnataka. All chairs are stable. I don't know what the PM is referring to."

Reports state that, when the Congress High Command selected Siddaramaiah as the CM, there was an understanding that Shivakumar would take over after the government reached its halfway mark. However, several party leaders have denied such an agreement. *—PTI*

"What was once considered impossible in Bengal has now become reality. The lotus is blooming stronger across every corner of India... The massive enthusiasm at HAL Airport, Bengaluru was not merely a welcome programme - it was a grand expression of the people's gratitude

-R Ashoka, BJP Leader

Modi's frustration is evident. Despite every attempt—using the Governor's office, political pressure, and every possible lever of power—he could not stop Vijay from (forming) the government... Be assured—under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, Congress will continue this fight against authoritarianism, defend democratic institutions, and stand with the people.

-Dinesh Gundu Rao, Congress Leader

PM hails Art of Living's service ethos

People celebrate at the Art of Living on Kanakapura Road during PM Narendra Modi's visit on Sunday —SALAR

Modi on Sunday lauded the role of the Art of Living Foundation in promoting service, spirituality and social transformation, and called for collective efforts to build a developed India through environmental responsibility, youth empowerment and inner well-being. Speaking at the ashram to mark 45 years of the foundation and participate in celebrations linked to its founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Modi said Bengaluru has elevated India's spiritual and cultural consciousness. Modi also inaugurated Dhyan Mandir, a lotus shaped meditation hall.

"You (PM) gave a new identity to the country by raising it from poverty, dirt and disorder. You announced Swachh Bharat Abhiyan as soon as you came to power and made it a clean, beautiful and safe country. You ended the Red Terror and made the country violence-free

-Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

Will beat Ramesh Jarkiholi with footwear: Savadi

BELAGAVI, 10 MAY

Athani Congress MLA and former deputy chief minister Lakshman Savadi said he would beat Gokak BJP MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi "with footwear" as the war of words between the legislator escalated dramatically.

Jarkiholi has been issuing provocative remarks on Savadi over the past two years, but the latter usually responded calmly. However, Savadi took offence to Jarkiholi's recent comments, where the Gokak MLA said he would make his Athani counterpart "drive a tractor instead of travelling in high-end cars."

In response, Savadi said he was the son of a farmer and fully capable of doing such work. "Not only tractors, I can also drive bullock carts. He must remember this".

He added that Athani was the land where Shivayogi Sharana had walked and preached, and therefore he would never allow anyone to harm or do injustice to the people of the taluk.

Jarkiholi has a history of making insulting, derogatory remarks against Savadi. Jarkhiholi said he would not rest until defeating Savadi in the Athani constituency.

In the 2018 Assembly election, Jarkiholi succeeded in defeating Savadi by fielding Mahesh Kumathalli from the Congress. However, the outcome was reversed in the 2023 Assembly election, when Savadi defeated Kumathalli by joining the Congress himself.

The victory was considered a major setback for Jarkiholi, a political heavyweight who was then widely regarded as never having seen defeat.

Responding to Jarkiholi's frequent jabs, Belagavi district's former BJP president Sanjay Patil expressed his helpless.

"The district block is not in the State to reach out to him with the matter. It can't even Issue a notice to him to attend an inquiry," the former two-term Belagavi Rural MLA said. *—Salar News*

Leopard kills 10-yr-old boy at MM Hills

MYSURU, 10 MAY

A 10-year-old boy from Bengaluru was attacked and killed by a leopard in MM Hills of Hanur Taluk in Chamarajanagar district on Sunday.

This is the second such case in the area in three months. Police have identified the deceased as Harshith, son of Suresh, resident of Laggere ward of Bengaluru.

A group of ten devotees along with parents of Harshith arrived from Bengaluru to MM Hills on Saturday. They stayed in MM Hills Guest House after having Darshan at Male Mahadeshwara temple.

They took out padayatra to Nagamale after collecting a ticket from the Forest Department at 6am.

Foresters recover the body of Harshith, a resident of Rajarajeshwari Nagar in Bengaluru, from MM Hills, on Sunday —SALAR

The leopard attacked the boy along the Nagamale stretch in the jungles near Indiganatha settlement and dragged him to the woods.

Even though the parents of Harshith and other padayatra devotees shouted for help, and attempted to rescue Harshith, the leopard dragged him into thick jungles and killed him.

Namma Kannadigara Sene State organising Secretary Ponnachi Snehajeevi Raju condemned the failure of the Forest Department.

In a similar incident, a leopard had recently attacked a boy who took out padayatra along with other devotees was reported near Talebetta along the MM Hills stretch, but survived with minor injuries. *—Salar News*

ABVP row: AISA condemns APU

BENGALURU, 10 MAY

A The Karnataka wing of the India All Students Association (AISA) has called the two-year suspension of a postgraduate student at Azim Premji University (APU) in Sarjapur, Bengaluru, "arbitrary", stating it is an attempt to hold a student directly responsible instead of addressing the violence caused by ABVP linked protesters who forcefully entered a student organised discussion.

The suspension follows an inquiry conducted over nearly two months by a Special Disciplinary Committee into a 24 February incident, when alleged Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP)-linked protesters forcibly entered the university premises, vandalised property, and assaulted students over a planned discussion on the Kunan Poshpora mass rape atrocity in Kashmir.

Two other students have reportedly been issued written warnings.

According to an email sent by the Registrar's office on Thursday, the student was found guilty of "defiance of institutional processes," and "misrepresenting facts".

The order further stated that the student's re-admission after two years would be subject to a future review, a student release said.

"This is not an attack on one student, but an attack on the democratic life of all students," AISA stated on Instagram.

It said that the college administration was choosing to silence students instead of protecting them, while professing that the university stood for just, equitable, humane and sustainable society. *—Salar News*

Look forward to working with Vijay, says CM

BENGALURU, 10 MAY

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has congratulated Tamil Nadu's new Chief Minister, Joseph Vijay, saying he has "scripted a remarkable democratic journey" from cinema to public service. In an 'X' post, Siddaramaiah reflected on the "deep civilisational ties" between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and expressed his desire to strengthen partnership between the states.

"Karnataka and Tamil Nadu share deep civilizational ties, cultural affinity and common aspirations for social justice, inclusive growth and federal cooperation. I look forward to working closely with him to strengthen the partnership between our two states and to advance the cause of secularism, constitutional values and the collective fight against divisive and fascist forces," Siddaramaiah stated.

Earlier on Sunday, Vijay was sworn in as Tamil Nadu's 13th Chief Minister at Fort George, Chennai. *—ANI*

CHITRADURGA'S BEACON

D Sudhakar: A legacy of resilience and accessibility

BENGALURU, 10 MAY

28 MAR, 1961 - 10 MAY, 2026

Karnataka on Sunday bid farewell to Planning and Statistics Minister D Sudhakar, who died after a prolonged illness, leaving behind a political legacy shaped by resilience, accessibility and grassroots public service.

Sudhakar, 66, died at Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences early Sunday after nearly two months of treatment for a lung infection.

The Congress MLA from Hiriyur, from the Jain community, built his career across shifting political landscapes while maintaining strong roots in central Karnataka.

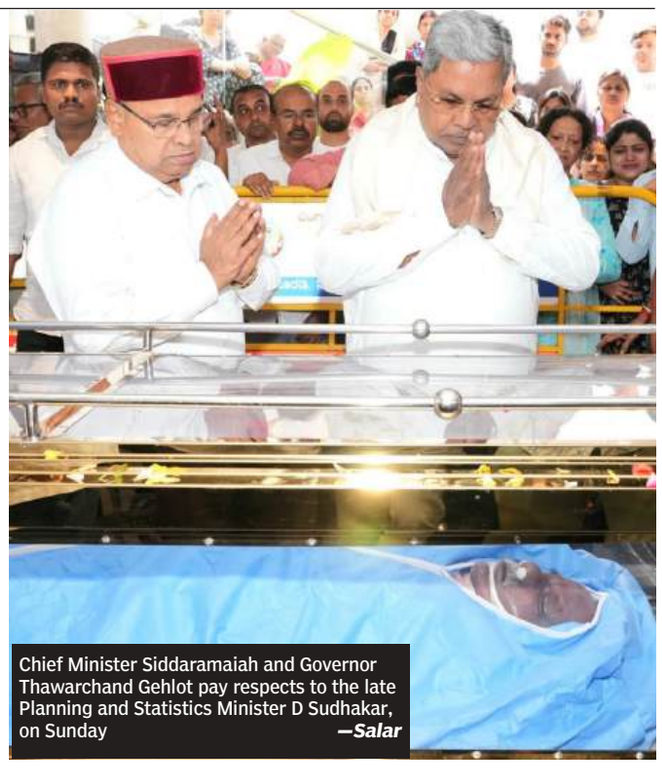
Born in Challakere in Chitradurga district, he studied there before earning a B.Com degree from National College, Shivamogga.

Politics, however, remained close to his upbringing. His uncle N Jayanna was twice MLA from Challakere between 1978 and 1989. Sudhakar entered politics in 2004, winning from Challakere. After it became a reserved constituency in 2008, he shifted to Hiriyur and won as an independent.

He later supported former chief minister BS Yediyurappa and the BJP, serving as a minister.

In 2013, he returned to Congress and won from Hiriyur. He also served as chairman of Karnataka State Electronics Development Corporation Limited (KEONICS), contributing to technology initiatives.

Though he lost the 2018 Assembly election to BJP's Poornima, Sudhakar remained politically active and retained his connection with the constituency. His comeback in the 2023 Assembly election on a Congress ticket reaffirmed his enduring influence in Hiriyur. Following the Congress victory in Karnataka that year, he was inducted into the Siddaramaiah cabinet as Minister for Planning and Statistics and also served as Chitradurga district in-charge minister. *—PTI*



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Governor Thawarchand Gehlot pay respects to the late Planning and Statistics Minister D Sudhakar, on Sunday —Salar

Vijay's ministers: A mix of youth and experience

Tamil Nadu Cabinet combines seasoned political hands with first-generation leaders

KA SENGOTTAIYAN

From his early days as leader of Kullapalayam Panchayat in Coimbatore district during the 1970s, Sengottaiyan has built a political career spanning nearly five decades. Born in 1948, he first entered the Assembly in 1977 from Sathyamangalam when the AIADMK swept to power under MG Ramachandran. After MGR's death, he became a close loyalist of J Jayalalithaa and later held key portfolios including Revenue and School Education under successive AIADMK governments. He was expelled from the AIADMK in 2025 following disagreements with Edappadi K Palaniswami before joining TVK.

AADHAV ARJUNA

One of TVK's most visible faces, Arjuna is president of the Basketball Federation of India and previously served as deputy general secretary of the VCK before parting ways with Thol Thirumavalavan. The Villivakkam MLA-elect and son-in-law of businessman Santiago Martin is widely credited with strengthening TVK's organisational growth. Arjuna said the new administration would focus on transparency, secularism and social justice while prioritising development.

N ANAND

Popularly known as 'Bussy' Anand, he is regarded as one of Vijay's closest political associates and played a central role in building TVK's organisational network across Tamil Nadu. He earned the nickname after winning the Bussy constituency in Puducherry in 2006 as a candidate of the Puducherry Munnetra Congress. Anand is also known for civic initiatives in his constituency, particularly campaigns aimed at maintaining garbage-free neighbourhoods.

S KEERTHANA

At 29, the Sivakasi MLA-elect became the first woman legislator from the constituency, ending decades of male dominance. She is also the youngest in the Cabinet. Born in Virudhunagar in 1996, Keerthana studied in Tamil-medium government schools before completing degrees in Mathematics and Statistics. She later worked as a political consultant with Showtime Consulting and IPAC, contributing to campaigns for the TDP, TMC and DMK. Over the years, she worked alongside leaders including M K Stalin, Mamata Banerjee and N Chandrababu Naidu.

KG ARUNRAJ

A former Indian Revenue Service officer and medical doctor, Arunraj resigned from government service to join TVK, where he later became general secretary for policy and propaganda. The Tiruchengode MLA studied at Madras Medical College and earlier served as a government medical officer in Krishnagiri. He defeated AIADMK caandidate SRMT Sekar by more than 28,000 votes and said TVK would provide a "clean, transparent and corruption-free" administration.

R NIRMAL KUMAR

Nirmal Kumar played a key role in post-poll negotiations with Left parties and previously headed TVK's IT and social media wing. Earlier associated with both the BJP and AIADMK, he joined TVK in 2025 and became one of its principal digital strategists. The Thirupparankundram MLA, who holds degrees in engineering and law, said the government would conduct a complete departmental audit and release a white paper on the state's finances.

A RAJMOHAN

An actor, stand-up comedian, television anchor and director, Rajmohan served as TVK's propaganda secretary before winning the Egmore constituency. Speaking after taking oath, he stressed the need for administrative reforms and a "zero-interference" governance model. He said transparency must extend from police stations and panchayats to the ministerial level.

P VENKATARAMANAN

TVK treasurer Venkataramanan, a practising advocate, won from the Mylapore constituency. Seen as the party's prominent Brahmin face, he had earlier administered the oath to thousands of party workers during TVK's first state conference in October 2024. He now joins Vijay's first cabinet as one of its senior organisational figures.

KT PRABHU

Dentist-turned-politician Prabhu secured victory from the Karaikudi constituency in Sivaganga district. He defeated NTK founder and actor-director Seeman in a closely watched contest. Prabhu is among the professional faces inducted into Vijay's Cabinet as TVK attempts to project a blend of experienced politicians and first-time leaders.

WHAT HE SAID

1. The face of Vijay is the face for (representing) Hindus, Muslims, and Christians. You can trust this Vijay 100 per cent

2. After reviewing everything, I intend to release a white paper to the people. I want my government to be a transparent government. That is the very first thing I want to do...As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, if I need to meet someone, I will not do it secretly or behind closed doors.

3. I will not touch even a single paisa of people's money

4. A special word of thanks to the little friends (GenZ) who call me 'Vijay Mama.' It is because of them that all of this has happened. I will repay my debt of gratitude to you... Stay confident this Vijay Mama will always be there for you

DREAMS COME TRUE

It was a moment of pride for SA Chandrasekhar and Shoba Chandrasekhar as they watched their son C Joseph Vijay take oath as Chief Minister. The Tamil film director and producer described the occasion as a "dream come true". Shoba expressed confidence in her son's leadership, saying, "Vijay will lead this well; I have full faith in him".

From bottom right to left: Chennai's Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium turned into a sea of celebration as thousands gathered for the swearing-in. The city witnessed an atmosphere of victory, with supporters arriving from dawn. Chants of 'Thalapathy' echoed in the stadium. Among those present were actress Trisha Krishnan, actor Jai and 'Jana Nayagan' producer KL Narayana

TVK MLA Karuppaiah sworn-in as pro-tem Speaker

MV Karuppaiah, TVK MLA from Sholavandan in Madurai, was sworn in as pro-tem Speaker. A former AIADMK legislator from the same seat, Karuppaiah joined TVK ahead of the elections. He won a closely fought contest with 63,907 votes, defeating DMK candidate Venkatesan A by 2,678 votes.

Lanka and TN are connected through history, culture, enterprise, and enduring people-to-people ties across generations...I look forward to working together, within the strong India–Sri Lanka partnership, towards greater prosperity and progress.

—Anura Kumara Dissanayake, Sri Lankan President to Vijay

NEW GENERATION, NEW VOICE: RAHUL

Congress on Sunday congratulated Vijay after he was sworn, with senior party leaders hailing the rise of a "new generation" in the state's politics.

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, who attended the swearing-in ceremony in Chennai, said Tamil Nadu had chosen "a new generation, a new voice and a new imagination". Posting photographs from the event on X, Gandhi wished Vijay success in fulfilling "the hopes of the people of Tamil Nadu".

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said the formation of the new government reaffirmed the values of self-respect, social justice, empowerment and rational thought associated with Tamil Nadu's political tradition and the legacy of Periyar and K Kamaraj.

Kerala cadre told to accept top brass' CM decision

T'PURAM, 10 MAY

Congress leader K Muraleedharan on Sunday said party workers are bound to accept the high command's decision on selecting the next Kerala Chief Minister following the United Democratic Front's (UDF) victory in the 9 April Assembly elections.

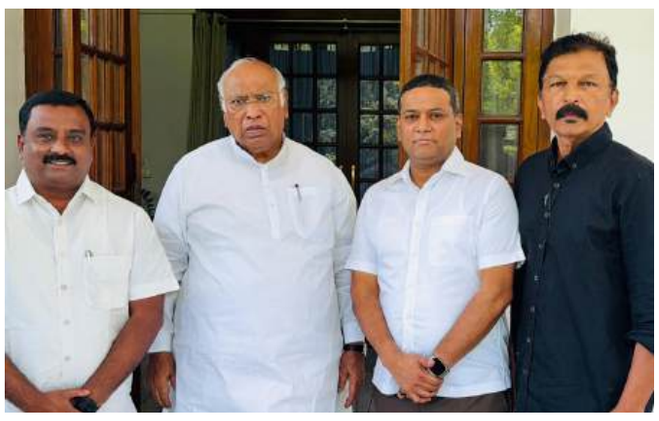
Speaking to reporters amid ongoing deliberations, Muraleedharan said senior leaders V D Satheesan, K C Venugopal and Ramesh Chennithala are frontrunners for the post. He added that the final decision will be taken by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, based on a resolution of the 63 Congress MLAs.

Muraleedharan said the decision is likely within two days, following discussions held on Saturday between the party leadership and the three senior leaders. He stressed that the Congress follows an established procedure in which the high command finalises the Chief Minister after consulting MLAs and senior leaders.

"There is a generational change happening in the Congress. During the era of K Karunakaran, Oommen Chandy and A K Antony, there were no disputes due to strong leadership. Now new leaders have emerged and differences will exist, but the party has mechanisms to resolve them," he said.

Meanwhile, senior Congress leader K C Joseph has lodged a complaint with the AICC against the circulation of alleged fake Facebook posts in his name targeting party colleague K C Venugopal. In a statement, he urged action against those spreading the posts.

In a related development, Kerala Congress (J) leader Apu John Joseph said the invitation extended to the Kerala Congress (M) faction to rejoin was sincere. The Kerala Congress (Joseph) faction, part of the UDF, won seven seats in the Assembly polls, while Kerala Congress (M), aligned with the LDF, failed to win any seat.Earlier, PJ Joseph and Apu John Joseph had said Kerala Congress (M) would be welcomed back. However, Kerala Congress (M) chairman Jose K Mani said the offer had been made in an insulting manner. —*PTI*



AICC Secretary Mansoor Ali Khan meets party President Mallikarjun Kharge in New Delhi along with fellow Congress Secretaries In-charge of Kerala BM Sandeep and PV Mohan —*SALAR NEWS*

UDF-backed MLA rebuilds wall razed by CPI(M)

Former CPI(M) leader PV Kunhikrishnan, who won the Assembly election as a UDF-backed Independent, on Sunday inaugurated the reconstruction of a compound wall that was allegedly demolished after it was used to display his election campaign murals in Payyannur here. The compound wall carrying campaign graffiti supporting Kunhikrishnan was allegedly demolished by CPI(M) workers on 9 April after polling. Payyannur is considered a stronghold of the Left.

BENGAL FILES

Ex-Cal HC CJ cleared record SIR appeals

KOLKATA, 10 MAY

Former Calcutta High Court Chief Justice TS Sivagnanam, who recently resigned from West Bengal's SIR appellate tribunal, cleared more deleted voters for restoration than the total number added back to the electoral rolls by all tribunals before polling concluded.

Official data from the Chief Electoral Officer's office showed that 1,607 deleted voters were restored statewide before polling ended. However, Justice Sivagnanam alone cleared 1,717 appeals between 5 and 27 April.

His tribunal also restored Congress leader Motab Shaikh's name, enabling him to contest and later win the Farakka seat. —*PTI*

TMC panchayat member found dead

KOLKATA, 10 MAY

The body of a man was found in Hooghly district on Sunday, with the TMC claiming that he was a party panchayat member and alleging that the number of post-poll violence deaths of its workers in West Bengal went up to six.

Sharing a picture of a blood-splattered body on its social media site, the TMC claimed the deceased was Sahadeb Bag, a member of Nokunda gram panchayat under Goghat 1 block.

A police officer said Bag's body was found lying in the field on Sunday morning."Based on the complaint lodged by his family, we are investigating all angles, including political aspects," he said. —*PTI*

NDA stakes claim to form govt in Assam

GUWAHATI, 10 MAY

Leaders of the NDA met Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya and staked claim to form the government led by Chief Minister-elect Himanta Biswa Sarma, in what will be the third consecutive NDA government in the state. The NDA, comprising the BJP, Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), and Bodoland People's Front (BPF), secured a record 102 seats out of 126 in the assembly elections, with BJP winning 82, and allies AGP and BPF securing 10 each.

The leaders submitted a signed application, with Sarma stating, "I have the support of 102 MLAs of the NDA. I have the signature of all of them." Union Minister JP Nadda and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, appointed as BJP's central observer and co-observer, also attended.

Acharya invited Sarma to form the government, with the oath of office scheduled for 12 May, likely attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Sarma, who first assumed office in 2021, is set to make history as the first non-Congress Chief Minister of Assam to serve two consecutive terms.. —*PTI*

ED RAIDS IN PUNJAB

AAP, BJP protest as Arora sent to 7-day custody

GURUGRAM, 10 MAY

A special PMLA court in Gurugram remanded Punjab Industries Minister Sanjeev Arora in Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody for a week over an alleged Rs 100-crore GST fraud-linked money laundering case. The court noted that the allegations against him are "very serious" and questioned that the agency needs to interrogate him to unravel the money trail. Arora's lawyer claimed the case was "cooked up" without prima facie evidence.

Arora, 62, was taken into custody after raids on his Chandigarh residence and the Gurugram-based Hampton Sky Realty Ltd (HSRL), where he was a director. The ED alleges Arora was the "beneficial owner and controller" of HSRL, which sold mobile phones worth Rs 157.12 crore in 2023-24, allegedly using fake invoices and shell entities to generate bogus sales.

Meanwhile, protests erupted across Punjab against the ED action, with AAP leaders and workers accusing the Centre of misusing agencies against opposition leaders. In Ludhiana, a scuffle broke out when AAP and BJP workers came face to face during protests outside the BJP office, with police intervening. AAP leaders burnt effigies of the BJP-led Centre. —*PTI*

Post-surgery infection claims 1 more Kota woman

KOTA, 10 MAY

A 22-year-old woman allegedly died due to post-C-section complications at the state-run JK Lone Hospital in Kota, while two other women developed kidney-related complications and were shifted to the New Medical College Hospital (NMCH) after their condition deteriorated, officials said on Sunday. However, authorities at the JK Lone Hospital said the woman died due to heart-related complications and not because of any post-C-section infection. The deceased, Priya Mahawar, 22, was the wife of Rohit Mahawar and a resident of Sunwasa village in Bundi district. Her baby has survived and is healthy. —*PTI*

— *ANI*

Pilgrim dies of heart attack on Yamunotri Trek

UTTARKASHI, 10 MAY

An 82-year-old pilgrim from Tamil Nadu died after suffering a heart attack on the Yamunotri trek route, officials reported. The devotee, named Shambhu Keval, was returning from the Yamunotri shrine on Saturday when he complained of chest pain and uneasiness near the Kaichi stretch. He collapsed on the trekking path. Police and rescue personnel provided first aid before shifting him to Janki Chatti health centre. Doctors declared him dead on arrival. The health centre in-charge, Dr Akhil Rana, confirmed the pilgrim suffered a heart attack during his return journey.—*PTI*

J&K anti-drug drive seizes 260kg narcotics

JAMMU, 10 MAY

The 100-day 'drug-free J-K campaign' has led to the arrest of 646 persons in 614 FIRs related to drug peddling, with over 260 kg of narcotics seized, officials announced. The campaign also saw properties worth over Rs 31 crore attached or demolished in 28 days. More than 2,16,123 awareness events involved over one crore participants. Authorities seized over 260 kg of drugs, including 3.8 kg of heroin, 32.92 kg of charas, and 222.31 kg of ganja, and destroyed 21 marlas of illegal poppy cultivation.—*PTI*

Miscreants vandalise Hanuman temple

SHILLONG, 10 MAY

Miscreants vandalised a Hanuman temple in Shillong's Garikhana, stealing idols, ornaments, and cash, police reported. The incident occurred around 1am. An FIR lodged by Ravi Sharma states the intruders broke open a side entrance before ransacking the premises, stealing idols of Lord Krishna, Radha, and Hanuman, along with silver and brass ritual items. An undisclosed amount of cash was taken from the donation box. The culprits set fire to CCTV cameras, but cameras nearby captured their escape. Police have launched an investigation into the incident. —*PTI*

Great Nicobar Project will ruin ecosystem: Ramesh

In letter to Centre, Ramesh flags inadequate studies

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh wrote to Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on Sunday, saying that the Great Nicobar Island Development Project would "destroy" the unique ecosystem there, and urged him to review the venture.

In his letter to Yadav, Ramesh said the studies based on which environmental clearance has been granted for the project were "grossly inadequate" and there has been a "mockery of the Environmental Impact Assessment process."

He stressed that security experts have written that the country's essential security needs can be met without inflicting such "ecological devastation on the Great Nicobar island."

"The Great Nicobar Island's biodiversity is unique, and new discoveries are being made from time to time. It is this unique ecosystem that will be destroyed by the Great Nicobar Island development project," he said in his letter.

Ramesh stressed that security experts have said that the country's security needs can be met without the Great Nicobar Island Project—*ANI*

Ramesh said the compensatory afforestation argument is completely bogus and the minister knows it.

Ramesh said it is evident that the studies based on which environmental clearance has been granted to the project are not even rapid Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and are based on baseline data collection over a few days and are grossly inadequate.

"These reports are an insult to science. All my efforts to locate the 'comprehensive studies, detailed assessments and robust Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plan' relied on in the FAQs have failed," he said.

"The 'Great Nicobar Project: FAQs' published by the government on 1 May 2026 said that 'The potential ecological impacts of the project have been comprehensively assessed, and are being effectively managed through a robust Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and a detailed Environmental Management Plan (EMP).'

The law mandates that port projects, especially those in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have to be subjected to comprehensive EIA studies, he pointed out, he said. — *PTI*

Police said a group wanted the junction to be named after Tipu Sultan while another wanted it to be named after Lord Hanuman—PTI

Andhra city sees clashes over junction naming

KADAPA, 10 MAY

Prohibitory orders were clamped on Kadapa after an agitation and stone pelting at the Almas Pet junction over its naming, police said on Sunday.

Police said a community wanted the junction to be named after ruler of the erstwhile Mysore Kingdom, Tipu Sultan, while another group demanded that it be named after Lord Hanuman, triggering unrest in the area.

"Tension prevailed near Almas Pet junction following clashes over the junction renaming issue, following which Section 144 was imposed and patrols were intensified to prevent law and order problems," a police official said.

On Saturday, stone pelting and protests broke out between the two groups, who were dispersed by the police.

The dispute had surfaced intermittently over the past 12 years.

Several people allegedly involved in the violence have been identified and they are likely to be arrested soon, said the official.

Kadapa District Collector Sridhar Cherukuri and SP Shelke Nachiket Vishwanath, termed the clashes as "unfortunate" and said anti-social elements attempted to disturb communal harmony in the town.

They also warned against the circulation of false information on social media, saying false propaganda was creating fear.

Meanwhile, police registered cases in connection with the clashes.

Officials said that steps are being taken to maintain peace in the district. — *PTI*

J&K rain shortage triggers fears of water supply crisis

SRINAGAR, 10 MAY

Jammu and Kashmir is facing a massive water crisis as its rain shortage is 26 per cent after 1 March.

IMD data says only five of the 20 districts in J&K have received normal rainfall (81 per cent to 119 per cent of average seasonal precipitation).

Shopian district in the valley and Kathua in Jammu are facing massive rain deficit with the south Kashmir district receiving precipitation 71 per cent less than normal from 1 March to 6 May. In Kathua the rains are 63 per cent less than normal.

Kulgam district is facing a 53 per cent deficit followed by Anantnag (46 per cent), Budgam (40 per cent), Kishtwar (36 per cent), Udhampur (34 per cent), Doda (31 per cent), Pulwama (30 per cent), Bandipora (29 per cent), Ramban (26 per cent) and Srinagar (22 per cent).

Poonch (41 per cent surplus) and Samba (49 per cent) are two districts which have received surplus rains.

Faizan Keng, who runs an independent weather forecasting channel on social media, said that J&K is headed for a water crisis—*ANI*

Faizan Keng, who runs an independent weather forecasting channel on various social media, said that J&K is headed for a water crisis.

"For six months, the precipitation levels have consistently failed to touch the normal mark, creating a dry streak that started in November and shows no signs of letting up. As we look at the fresh data for April, the shortfall continues to grow, with the UT recording only 86.5 mm of rainfall against the normal 99.6 mm," Keng posted on Kashmir Weather's X handle.

Meanwhile, the IMD has forecast rain at some places in J&K in the next 48 hours. However, the rain is not expected to be enough to offset the huge deficit. — *PTI*

India-Trinidad archival pact to trace diaspora roots

PORT OF SPAIN, 10 MAY

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced an India-Trinidad and Tobago archival agreement to help the Indian diaspora trace their roots and reconnect with families. He highlighted efforts to preserve the legacy of the Girmitya community, Indian indentured labourers taken by the British to Fiji, South Africa, Mauritius, and the Caribbean from the 19th to early 20th centuries.

Addressing a gathering at Nelson Island, Jaishankar recalled the arrival of the first Indian indentured labourers in Trinidad 180 years ago, paying tribute to their "fortitude, determination and resolve." He said the immigrants carried their faith, and stressed the importance of preserving this history as a heritage site.

He also mentioned the creation of a Girmitya Studies Centre, a digital hub, and a growing number of OCI applications following Modi's extension of eligibility. Jaishankar concluded his visit on Saturday. —*PTI*

KINGPIN IN KOCHI FAKE ORGAN DONATION RACKET HELD IN UP

KOCHI, 10 MAY

The suspected kingpin of a Kerala-based racket which supplied forged documents for organ donors and recipients was arrested on Sunday, police said.

The accused, Najeeb, belongs to Peringala in Kunnathunad near here.

Ernakulam Rural Police chief KS Sudarshan said that Najeeb was arrested in Uttar Pradesh.

"After our team busted the racket, Najeeb switched off his phone and left the state. Our team tracked the accused to UP and arrested him. We suspect that he was planning to escape to Nepal," Sudarshan said.

He said that if a flight is available, Najeeb will be brought to Kochi on Sunday itself.

Najeeb is the prime accused in multiple cases registered in various districts in connection with forged documents allegedly used to facilitate organ donation.

Police had arrested Najeeb's wife on Saturday.

Earlier, the police had arrested Sunny Varghese, 56, and his wife Sini Varghese, 50, natives of Morakkala in Kunnathunad, and Sanoj, 32, a native of Chelakkulam, Pattimattom.

Sreeja and Sudheer were arrested by Kilikollur police in Kollam district in connection with a related case.

The FIRs said that the gang had been active from August 2023 and had allegedly forged letterheads of two private hospitals in Kochi, fake police clearance certificates and had forged letters in the names of former Uduma MLA CH Kunhambu, Ernakulam MP Hibi Eden, former Koothuparamba MLA KP Mohanan, former Aroor MLA Daleema Jojo, former Kerala Chief Whip N Jayaraj and Alathur MP KR Radhakrishnan.

They also issued forged letterheads in the names of the Ambalapuzha DySP and the Kunnamkulam ACP. — *PTI*

Review wages of priests, temple staff: PIL in SC

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay seeking a direction to the Centre and states to constitute a judicial commission or an expert committee to review the wages of priests, sevadars and other temple staffers in state-controlled temples.

"Petitioner also seeks a declaration that priests and temple staff are 'employee' under Section 2(k) of the Code on Wages, 2019. Petitioner submits that once the State assumes control of temples, an employer-employee relationship arises and denial of adequate wages to priests and temple staff violates the right to livelihood guaranteed under Article 21," it said.

Upadhyay said the cause of action occurred on 4 April, when he went to Varanasi to attend a public programme. After 'Rudrabhishek' at the Kashi Vishwanath temple controlled by the state he came to know that minimum wages are not given to the priests and temple staff.

"Recently, in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, priests and temple staff organised a protest demanding minimum wages. Priests and temple staff are not getting even the minimum wage prescribed by the State for unskilled and semi-skilled workers. The State is violating the Minimum Wages Act," it said. — *PTI*

Odisha probing cop's lynching

BHUBANESWAR, 10 MAY

The Odisha Police Crime Branch (CB) has begun an investigation into the lynching of a GRP constable by a mob on 7 May, over allegations of attempting to rape a woman. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi ordered the probe due to the incident's sensitivity, with a woman accusing the man of sexual assault and her family demanding a polygraph test.

DSP Ratnaprava Satpathy leads the investigation, with two teams visiting the spot and police station. Officers will examine witnesses, seize items, and collect medical reports. The DIG of Crime Branch, Battula Gangadhar, said forensic tools and dog squads will assist. So far, 11 people have been arrested; the victim, Soumya Ranjan Swain, was beaten to death, and Om Prakash Rout was injured during the attack. —*PTI*

Jaipur journo booked for post on chief secy

JAIPUR, 10 MAY

An FIR has been registered against a Jaipur-based journalist for allegedly posting a defamatory article on social media targeting the Rajasthan chief secretary and the administration.

As per the FIR registered last Friday, the action was initiated after a Facebook post on 26 April by freelance journalist Mahesh Jhalani had allegedly contained objectionable content affecting the image of the state government and senior officials.

However, in a subsequent social media post late Saturday, Jhalani expressed regret over the language used by him and met Chief Secretary V Srinivas and conveyed his apology. He claimed the officer accepted his apology with "grace."

In the post, the journalist had sharply criticised the functioning of the administration, alleging the system had become "paralysed," and questioned the leadership of the chief secretary, citing lack of field experience.

The article also said that administrative decisions were confined to files with little impact on the ground and accused the top bureaucracy of focusing more on image-building.

- The action was taken after an FB post by journalist Jhalani allegedly affected the image of the Rajasthan admin

In a subsequent social media post late Saturday, Jhalani expressed regret over the language used by him.

He said the post was written "in a moment of anger" and acknowledged that its tone was inappropriate.

The journalist also maintained that while criticism is a democratic right, it should not undermine personal dignity, and described his apology as a "moral resolution".

The office of the chief secretary had earlier directed that legal action be taken under BNS and the IT Act.

The Jaipur South police registered a case under BNS along with Section 66D of the IT Act on 8 May. — *PTI*

Ex-UP BJP chief back in Yogi cabinet after 4 yrs

LUCKNOW, 10 MAY

Former UP BJP chief Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary, a prominent Jat leader from western Uttar Pradesh who was on Sunday sworn in as a minister for the fourth time, has returned to the Yogi Adityanath government after nearly four years.

A native of Moradabad, Chaudhary, 57, was associated with the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and played an active role in the Ram Temple movement.

He joined the BJP in 1989 and carved a niche for himself within the organisation, rising from a leadership role in the party's Moradabad district unit to becoming the regional president of the western UP wing.

He subsequently became the BJP's Uttar Pradesh unit chief in August 2022, a post he held till December 2025.

Chaudhary contested the 1999 Lok Sabha election from Sambhal against Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav, but lost. —*PTI*

'TEACHES KIDS TO LIE'

'Johny Johny Yes Papa' against our values: UP min

LUCKNOW, 10 MAY

Uttar Pradesh Higher Education Minister Yogendra Upadhyay sparked a controversy by describing English nursery rhymes like "Johny Johny Yes Papa" and "Rain Rain Go Away" as against Indian culture and values as they teach children to lie and be selfish.

Speaking at an event to felicitate 'Siksha Mitras' in Kanpur this week, Upadhyay said teacher education is not merely about becoming a teacher but shaping future generations and instilling values."When you become a teacher, you are shaping generations. But where will values come from?" he said.

Criticising the rhyme "Johny Johny Yes Papa," he said parents ask children to recite it without understanding its meaning. "Parents ask their children to recite 'Johny Johny yes papa, eating sugar? No Papa.' This poem teaches children to lie. 'Telling lies? No Papa.' Then comes, 'Open your mouth, ha ha ha.' What are we teaching children?" he asked. Upadhyay also objected to the rhyme "Rain Rain Go Away", as it promotes personal happiness over collective welfare.

- Speaking at an event to felicitate 'Siksha Mitras' in Kanpur this week, Upadhyay said teacher education is not merely about becoming a teacher but is about shaping future generations and instilling values

"'Rain rain go away, come again another day, Little Johnny wants to play' means that as Johnny wants to play, the rain should go away. This is 'Swantah Sukhay' (one's own pleasure). It is not our culture, which is 'Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya'," he said.

He said Indian culture emphasises collective good and harmony with nature instead of personal pleasure.

The Samajwadi Party attacked the minister's statement, saying that the BJP did nothing in the last nine years and is raking up such issues to divert public attention. — *PTI*

FROM SCREEN HERO TO 'MUTHALVAN'

TVK founder C Joseph Vijay on the Chief Minister's chair -*PTI*

When C Joseph Vijay repeatedly asserted that the 2026 Assembly polls was a fight between his party, the TVK and the then ruling DMK, many did not buy that argument. On Sunday, days after winning the elections and clinching support for his party to form government, the 51-year-old was sworn-in as Chief Minister (Muthalvar/Muthalamaichar) of Tamil Nadu after trouncing the MK Stalin-led Dravidian major.

Not only on the point of the electoral battle, but on several other aspects TVK and 'Thalapathy' Vijay differed from "mainstream" political parties and their conventional ways to seek votes. Vijay neither introduced candidates in all the constituencies nor toured all segments or vigorously campaigned in the traditional sense by addressing rallies.

But his messages were forwarded in social media and by word of mouth.

He neither met the press nor gave interviews and directly communicated to people via social media. Unusually, he focused on teens, youngsters, children to persuade their parents to vote for TVK.

Also, he brilliantly combined elements of Dravidian ideology and Tamil nationalism in formulating his party's ideology.

About 25-30 years ago, it was just unthinkable that a shy and mild-mannered Vijay would one day go on to launch a political party and become the chief minister in his debut election. It was all summed up in a frozen moment of history when a photo showing late DMK chief M Karunanidhi with Vijay the boy standing behind him having gone viral, with many wondering if the former chief minister ever wondered the lad would be his son Stalin's challenger and vanquisher.

Vikraman, who directed Vijay in 'Poove Unakkaga', recently told PTI: "Even back then, I was confident that he would go on to rule the cinema industry. I knew there was something special about him that would make people go crazy for him."

Bharathan, who wrote the dialogues for 'Ghilli' and 'Madhurey', and also directed Azhagiya Tamil Magan and Bairavaa, concurs with Vikraman.

'Poove Unakkaga' turned out to be the first breakthrough in the actor's then fledgling career in cinema, and he eventually transformed into a mega star as he pursued the tried-and-tested formula of strong emotions, family-oriented themes, humour, high-octane action, and hit songs.

Vijay's family introduced the promotional title "Ilaya Thalapathy" (Young Commander) for his third film itself, 'Rasigan' (1994), which reflected their confidence and understanding of the importance of branding. This moniker would evolve over more than a decade as he matured into the undisputed "Thalapathy".

Now Chandrasekar Joseph Vijay has graduated as 'Thalaivan' (leader) and Muthalvar (Chief Minister) from being the 'Thalapathy' (commander).

Vijay, determined, had all along, carefully crafted a career roadmap to align with his goal of political transformation.

When Vijay's fans, mobilised under the banner of Vijay Makkal Iyakkam (Vijay's forum for the people) won local body polls in 2021 using the actor's photos, it raised eyebrows and set the tone for his eventual political debut. Many of the VMI office-bearers are functionaries of Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK).

Years ago, when Vijay began narrating stories in public functions, a popular trait of a towering political personality, late chief minister J Jayalalithaa, many thought that he was biting off more than he could chew.

Like tall political leaders, including the late, iconic 'Kalaignar' Karunanidhi, he began addressing his admirers and fans using a signature phrase to establish bond and connect.

"En Nenjil Kudiyirukkum... Nanba, Nanbi," (You live in my heart, friends) is Vijay's popular phrase to hail his supporters. Like some noted leaders, including Jayalalithaa, Vijay had rarely given interviews to the press and had all along spoken less in public.

When his movie 'Thalaiva (The Leader, 2013)' had the tagline "Born to Lead," it gave a first, clear hint of his political ambition, but it was not definitive enough. However, about two years before Thalaiva, he had called on Anna Hazare at the venue of his fast in Delhi and expressed support, and it set tongues wagging.

As expected, Thalaiva courted controversy, and the movie's release was delayed in Tamil Nadu by two weeks and it was screened only after its tagline had been removed. The AIADMK was in power at that time.

When he tackled on-screen the challenges faced by farmers in his film 'Kaththi' (2014) it marked the arrival of a messiah for his fans. As his stardom grew, his films began to mirror an increasingly political undercurrent. Atlee's 'Mersal' (2017) stirred political controversy as a dialogue condemning the GST provoked BJP leaders, with H Raja publicly commenting on Vijay's Christian faith and accusing him of fueling a "hatred campaign".

'Sarkar' (2018) shifted focus to electoral politics and election fraud, and the speculation about Vijay's political ambitions intensified. Then, following the 2018 Thoothukudi police firing, Vijay visited the victims' families and offered a compensation of Rs 1 lakh each.

The dialogues from his films were quite special that continued to be etched in people's memory, like "I am waiting (delivered with quiet intensity before a major action sequence, from 'Thuppaki' and later 'Katthi'), also helped elevate his stature.

Vijay first appeared on screen as a child artiste in 'Vetri' (1984), a Vijayakanth-starrer directed by his father, SA Chandrasekhar. At 18, he made his debut as a lead actor in 'Naalaiya Theerpu' (1992), a flop. For his second movie, Vijay was cast as Vijayakanth's younger brother in 'Sendhoorapandi' (1993). The immense popularity of Vijayakanth proved instrumental in the commercial success of the film, which blended action and romance with a narrative of villagers resisting feudal exploitation.

Undoubtedly, he possesses both charisma and conviction and it has helped him transform screen heroism into real-world leadership. As his own story hints, even a 'Thalapathy' may need a 'Senthoorapandi' moment a rare confluence of opportunity, mentorship, and decisive action to navigate the rugged terrain of politics and polls. —*PTI*

Vijay first appeared on screen as a child artiste in 'Vetri' (1984); 'Poove Unakkaga' was the first breakthrough in the actor's then fledgling career

LETTERS

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SALAR سالار

'Dual power structure in UT is worst form of govt'

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah -*PTI*

- Terming the current administrative structure in Jammu and Kashmir the "worst form of government", Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has called for an urgent shift toward full statehood while acknowledging that significant progress has been made in narrowing differences with the Centre over the transaction of business rules. He also hit out at vested interests making efforts to create a political wedge between Jammu and Srinagar

Terming the current administrative structure in Jammu and Kashmir the "worst form of government", Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has called for an urgent shift toward full statehood while acknowledging that significant progress has been made in narrowing differences with the Centre over the transaction of business rules.

He also hit out at vested interests making efforts to create a political wedge between Jammu and Srinagar, saying "they have failed and they will continue to fail", and highlighted the restoration of the traditional biannual shift of the capital known as 'Darbar Move' as a vital bridge in narrowing the emotional divide between the two regions.

Speaking with PTI, Abdullah argued that the logic behind treating a territory with 90 elected legislators on par with smaller regions like Puducherry, which has only 30, remains incomprehensible, and reiterated his earlier stand that a dual power system where two power structures exist is a "recipe for disaster".

"Can you not see the difference between a tiny one with 30 MLAs and one with 90 MLAs? And you still believe that this current system is beneficial to Jammu and Kashmir after everything that happened last year?" he asked while referring to the Pahalgham tragedy.

He specifically noted that the size and scale of Jammu and Kashmir demand a governance model where the elected representatives are fully responsible for administration. "I continue to believe that a system of Union territory with an assembly is by far the worst form of government that you can come up with," Abdullah said.

He highlighted that several key institutions, including universities, the Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, and the Power Development Corporation, should have automatically come under the domain of the elected government.

"I am not even arguing on the central services, law and order, and police. As a Union territory, those are automatically within the domain of the unelected government. But these were institutions that were previously the responsibility of the elected government. And they should be," Abdullah said.

Despite these friction points, Abdullah expressed optimism, stating that his government and the Government of India are close to reaching an agreement on the rules of business and that a formal proposal for the appointment of a new advocate general has finally been dispatched to the appropriate authorities.

On the long-standing issue of summary dismissals of government employees without judicial inquiry, Abdullah described the process as arbitrary, opaque and unlikely to withstand judicial scrutiny.

This practice did not originate with the current lieutenant governor's administration but was initiated during the previous BJP-PDP coalition government, he said. "Look, everyone has the right to prove their innocence. For some reason, these employees were not given that opportunity. And I have no doubt that going ahead, many of these people will return to government service on the back of relief from the court."

Referring to the promises made by his party, the National Conference, Abdullah detailed the operationalisation of his poll promises, including 200 units of free electricity and six free cooking gas cylinders for the poorest households, underlining that power subsidy is being provided to the poorest of the poor.

He argued that anyone above the poverty line should pay market rates for electricity to ensure that state resources are prioritised for the most vulnerable.

"Anybody above BPL (Below Poverty Line) should not be paying subsidised rates for electricity. They should pay the market rate," he said.

Beyond direct welfare, Abdullah highlighted the restoration of the 'Darbar Move' and the introduction of free education and bus travel for women as key milestones in his 20-month-old administration.

Speaking on the composite culture of J-K, Abdullah said the traditional biannual shift of the capital has allowed a new generation of employees from Jammu, who had never worked in the Valley before, to bond with their Kashmiri counterparts.

Replying to a query on Kashmiri Pandits who migrated to various camps in Jammu, Abdullah said the question needs to be asked of the BJP as to why they are still in camps.

Terming the migration "deeply unfortunate", Abdullah said, "We want those who left in the late 80s, early 90s, to come back. I have always maintained that they left because their sense of security was snatched away. They will come back only when that sense of security is restored. And we have not been able to do that so far."

Crediting former prime minister Manmohan Singh for building the Jagti township in Jammu for migrants and creating a job quota for them, Abdullah said that nothing more has been done for the community since then. —*PTI*

Bengal Muslims are caught between caution & pragmatism

BJP flags are seen in a minority-dominated area, in Kolkata, West Bengal on Sunday —*PTI*

As dusk settled over Metiabruz in southwest Kolkata on 9 May, television screens inside crowded restaurants replayed visuals of Suvendu Adhikari taking oath as West Bengal's first BJP Chief Minister, a moment that until recently would have seemed politically unimaginable in a state shaped for decades by anti-BJP sentiment.

In many Muslim neighbourhoods, the reaction was neither dramatic nor defiant. It was watchful. For a community that constitutes nearly 30 per cent of the state's population, the arrival of a BJP government has triggered a mix of anxiety, pragmatism and cautious expectation.

There are apprehensions over representation and security, particularly because the BJP did not field a single Muslim candidate in the assembly polls. However, there is also a quieter sentiment that the verdict must be accepted democratically and judged through governance rather than rhetoric.

"We believe in democratic governance, leadership and equality. In a democracy, the government should function for everyone," said Mohammed Kamruzzaman, general secretary of the All Bengal Minority Youth Federation.

"We expect the government to uphold 'rajdharma' and ensure equal treatment for all citizens," he said.

The sentiment reflects the shifting mood within Bengal's Muslim electorate, after an election that fractured political assumptions built over the past decade. For years, Muslim voters had largely consolidated behind the TMC. In the 2021 polls, that consolidation acted as a firewall against the saffron surge.

This election unfolded differently. In districts such as Murshidabad, Malda, Uttar Dinajpur and parts of South 24 Parganas, the minority vote no longer moved uniformly behind the TMC. Sections drifted towards the Congress and the Left, while local outfits such as Humayun Kabir's AJUP and the ISF cut into the ruling party's base.

In Murshidabad, where Muslims form nearly two-thirds of the population, the TMC's tally crashed from 20 seats in 2021 to nine. The BJP climbed from two seats to nine. Similar shifts surfaced in Malda and Uttar Dinajpur.

The number of Muslim MLAs has dipped only marginally from 44 to 40, but the TMC's dominance among them has weakened sharply. Six Muslim legislators now belong to parties outside both the TMC and BJP.

Political observers believe the shift was driven by several factors. There was fatigue among sections of minority voters over symbolic politics and local factionalism within the TMC.

In several constituencies, Congress and Left candidates drew enough support to split what had once been a consolidated anti-BJP bloc.

The Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls also became a major undercurrent.

Nearly 91 lakh names were deleted. While there is no official religious break-up, opposition parties estimate that a substantial portion of those removed were Muslims concentrated in districts that traditionally favour the TMC.

Yet, the data also suggests deletions alone cannot explain the outcome. Even in Muslim-majority seats where turnout remained robust, the TMC suffered visible erosion.

In Murshidabad's Raninagar, the Congress defeated the TMC, while the CPI(M) secured a substantial vote share, fragmenting the minority vote. In mixed-population constituencies, the BJP simultaneously benefited from consolidation among Hindu voters.

"The BJP's immediate priority will be governance and development. There is no reason for panic. Minorities may not receive any additional political advantage, but there could be a more level playing field where development becomes the focus," political analyst Moidul Islam said.

That possibility is being discussed cautiously within sections of the Muslim middle class, particularly among younger voters who say they want administrative stability and jobs. When asked about the minority affairs department, senior BJP leader Dilip Ghosh avoided a direct answer on who would head it, while insisting development should not be viewed through a religious lens.

Meanwhile, there has also been a conscious attempt by several Muslim organisations to avoid immediate confrontation and instead publicly articulate expectations.

Maulana Shafique Qasmi, imam of Kolkata's Nakhoda Masjid, said ideological differences should not prevent an elected government from functioning for every community. "For the government of the day, everyone should be equal," he said.

Md Yahya, chairman of the West Bengal Imam Association, said the community hoped the BJP's slogan of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' would be implemented "in letter and spirit".

For Bengal's Muslims, the moment is less about ideological conversion than political recalibration.

For now, the state's Muslims seem to be caught between caution and calculation - uncertain of what the new political order may eventually bring, yet unwilling to retreat entirely into the politics of fear that had shaped much of the last decade.

As Bengal turns a historic page with its first BJP government, the largest minority community here is watching closely, as between apprehension and adaptation lies a quiet test for both the BJP and the state itself. —*PTI*

UKRAINE WAR COMING TO AN END: PUTIN

MOSCOW, 10 MAY

The war on Ukraine is "coming to an end", Russian President Vladimir Putin said for the first time on Saturday. He has previously said that Russia's all-out invasion of its neighbour would continue until all of Moscow's military goals were met.

Putin also suggested that he was willing to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy somewhere outside of Russia – another first.

Speaking to press after the Victory Day Parade in Moscow, Putin blamed the four-year war on the West, alleging that it used Ukraine to pursue its geopolitical ambitions.

"They are the ones who wage the war against us with the hands of the Ukrainians. And of course, it's very comfortable for them. They provoked this conflict," Putin said. He cited Ukraine's EU aspirations and NATO enlargement as key triggers of the ongoing confrontation.

His comments come after US President Donald Trump announced a three-day ceasefire and prisoner exchange between Russia and Ukraine, a day more than what Moscow unilaterally declared for its Victory Day parade. Zelenskyy had countered Russia's initial proposal, saying that Ukraine would cease all hostilities if Moscow stopped its attacks.

However, both Russia and Ukraine on Sunday accused each other of breaking their commitments, with Ukrainian authorities saying that at least one person had been killed.

Putin also highlighted India, China and US.

"We presented our friends, colleagues, and partners with a picture of what the situation could develop into," Putin added. —*ANI*

Kuwait reports drone incursion, ship struck near Qatar

With ceasefire under duress, Iran says ready if US tries to steal its uranium

DUBAI, 10 MAY

The shaky ceasefire in the Iran war was tested again on Sunday when drones of unclear origin set fire to a cargo ship off Qatar's coast and entered Kuwaiti airspace before dawn, authorities said. Qatar and Kuwait said that no casualties were reported from the attacks. The United Arab Emirates also said it was responding to drones, but did not report casualties .

The events marked the latest threats to a month-old ceasefire, which the Trump administration says remains in effect. Several ships have been attacked in the Persian Gulf in the past week, by both Iran and the US.

Qatar's Ministry of Defence said that a drone targeted a commercial ship coming from Abu Dhabi into a southern port, setting a small fire that was extinguished. Details about the owner or origin of ship were unclear and no one claimed responsibility.

The attacks come as US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met Qatari Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani in Washington. The Qatar PM then spoke to his Pakistani counterpart Shehbaz Sharif on the phone. Iran later said it had responded to a US ceasefire proposal.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Iranian military said forces were on "full readiness" to protect nuclear sites where the uranium is stored.

"We considered it possible that they might steal it through infiltration or heliborne operations," Brig Gen Akrami Nia told IRNA.

Meanwhile, Ali Abdollahi Aliabadi, who comands the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, met Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei and presented a report on Tehran's preparedness. He reportedly said Iran would respond more "powerfully" if attacked. —*Agencies*

> **As for Iran and the US.... We maintain contact with both sides... We continue the nuclear programmes in Iran; we completed the construction of Bushehr (nuclear facility). Our work on peaceful atoms is not susceptible to the current situation. We did it in 2015, and it was a foundation for signing the treaty among all interested countries and Iran. It played a very positive role... We have never once said that there is any evidence about Iran's striving for nuclear weapons**
>
> —Vladimir Putin, Russian President

A ship caught on fire in the Dubai Creek on Sunday, raising fears that it was struck by Iran. However, the Dubai Media Office said it was unrelated and there were no casualties —*X @DXBMEDIAOFFICE*

Israel built outposts in Iraq to bomb Iran

Israel set up a covert military outpost in the Iraqi desert to support its air campaign against Iran and later carried out airstrikes against Iraqi civilians and troops who came close to discovering the facility, The Wall Street Journal reported citing officials. The facility was built before the Israel and US started the war on 28 February and housed Israeli personnel. The base was also crucial after a US F-15 fighter jet was shot down in Iran as it provided tactical and logistical support.

Russia gives Iran drone parts via Caspian

Iran has reportedly been receiving shipments containing aid and drone components from Russia via the Caspian Sea, according to a report by the New York Times. Sources said that the shipments were allowing Iran to rebuild its offensive capabilities. The report claimed that the goods, which would normally flow through the Strait of Hormuz, are now being sent both overtly and covertly through the world's largest lake, effectively bypassing the US naval blockade.

Israeli bombs kill dozens in Lebanon

BEIRUT, 10 MAY

Dozens of people were killed by Israeli bombardment of Lebanon on Saturday and Sunday.

On Saturday, at least 30 people were killed by Israel in various strikes across Lebanon, despite the US-brokered ceasefire entering its third week. The Lebanese Ministry of Public Health noted that an Israeli attack on the town of al-Saksakieh in the southern Sidon district killed at least seven people, including a child, and wounded 15, including three children.

On Sunday, the bombing continued. Two people were killed and five others injured when two Israeli airstrikes hit positions of the Islamic Health Committee in the Bint Jbeil district, Lebanon's National News Agency reported.

PALANTIR ALLEGEDLY TRACKING TARGETS

A report from the LA Times claimed that Israel was using Palantir's Maven, an AI system, to track targets in Lebanon. The system reportedly combines massive amounts of data, including social media usage, to identify a person's threat level, before alerting the Israeli military.

The company's CEO Alex Karp has already confirmed that Palantir was used in Israel's 2024 pager attacks, which killed at least 42 people and injured 3,000 others. —*Agencies*

Large oil spill seen near Kharg Island

WASHINGTON DC, 10 MAY

Satellite imagery showed a large oil slick in the Persian Gulf near Kharg Island, Iran's main crude oil export hub, as the ceasefire has come under repeated strain recently. The exact cause of the spill remains unclear.

The spill had expanded to more than 20 square miles by Thursday, according to estimates from Orbital EOS, a global oil spill monitoring service. Orbital EOS estimated that more than 3,000 barrels of oil may have been released into the waters of the Persian Gulf.

The oil slick appeared to be drifting southward toward Saudi waters, potentially increasing regional environmental concerns. Iran, the US and regional countries, have not commented on the spill at the time of publishing.

Iran's oil and gas infrastructure has been under growing strain due to the ongoing US naval blockade of Iranian ports. —*ANI*

Militant attack in Pakistan kills 15 security officials

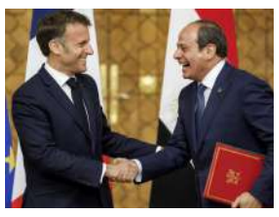
PESHAWAR, 10 MAY

A suicide attack and ambush at a police post in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province resulted in the death of 15 security personnel, with several others injured. The attack occurred in Bannu district when an explosive-laden vehicle approaching the police post was fired at, causing a blast and the collapse of nearby houses. The police post was razed, and security personnel were buried under rubble. Following the explosion, militants launched an attack, resulting in a heavy firefight. The police have not confirmed the number of militants killed or captured. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Chief Minister, Muhammad Sohail Afridi, condemned the attack as "highly tragic and a cowardly act". No group claimed responsibility. —*PTI*

Niger suspends nine French media outlets

NIAMEY, 10 MAY

Niger has suspended nine French media outlets, including France 24, RFI, and TV5 Monde, accused of threatening public order and national security, prompting condemnation from Reporters Without Borders. The watchdog described the charges as "fabricated" and condemned a "coordinated strategy to repress press freedom," calling for the decision's reversal. Niger's media regulator, the National Observatory of Communication, stated the closures aimed to "preserve peace, social cohesion and the stability of institutions," alleging the outlets broadcast content endangering public order and morale. Niger's military rulers, alongside those of Mali and Burkina Faso, have cut ties with Western nations since seizing power, and instead turning to Russia. —*PTI*



Macron meets Sisi, seeking to regain ties in Africa

CAIRO, 10 MAY

French President Emmanuel Macron held talks with President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi before inaugurating the new campus of Senghor University, a French-speaking institution focusing on African development. Both leaders praised bilateral ties, now a strategic partnership since 2025. Macron highlighted growing trade and French investment, while Sisi called for expanded cooperation in industry, transport and education. Macron will head to to Nairobi for the "Africa Forward" summit, then to Addis Ababa for talks with Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed and the African Union, as France has been seen as losing influence in Africa amid the growing violence in the Sahel. —*AGENCIES*

Syria's interim Prez relocates brother in govt reshuffle

DAMASCUS, 10 MAY

Syria's interim leader, President Ahmad al-Sharaa, has reshuffled key government positions and removed his brother, Maher al-Sharaa, from a prominent post amid ongoing efforts to unite a divided nation. Maher, who served as secretary-general to the presidency, had been appointed last year, drawing comparisons with Syria's former President Bashar Assad and his father, Hafez Assad. Ahmad al-Sharaa's government, which ousted Bashar Assad in December 2024, also appointed Abdul Rahman Badreddine al-Aama as Maher's replacement. The exact role Maher will hold remains unclear. Maher, a physician and former interim health minister, is not believed to have a new position. The reshuffle also included new governors for Homs, Latakia, Deir el-Zour, and Quneitra, and a new Information Minister. —*PTI*

HANTAVIRUS-STRICKEN CRUISE ARRIVES AT SPAIN'S ISLANDS

TENERIFE, 10 MAY

A cruise ship hit by a hantavirus outbreak has arrived off Tenerife in Spain's Canary Islands, with over 140 passengers and crew set to disembark.

The Dutch-flagged MV Hondius, operated by Oceanwide Expeditions, will remain anchored offshore while passengers are ferried away in small boats. Everyone leaving the vessel will undergo health screening.

Passengers have been instructed to leave behind all luggage except a small bag containing essential items, mobile phones, chargers and documents.

Three people have died since the outbreak began, while five passengers tested positive for hantavirus. Health authorities across four continents are tracing more than two dozen passengers. —*PTI*

Not another Covid, says WHO Chief

WHO Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus sought to calm fears among Tenerife residents. "I know you are worried... (but) this is not another Covid," he said. Hantavirus spreads through contact with rodent droppings and is rarely transmitted between humans, although the Andes strain may spread in rare cases.

Israel mulls scraping Oslo Accords, forming Palestine

TEL AVIV, 10 MAY

An Israeli ministerial committee is expected to review a bill on Sunday aimed at revoking the Oslo Accords and preventing the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The bill was introduced by Knesset (Israeli Parliament) Deputy Speaker Limor Son Har-Melech, who sharply criticised the Oslo framework. Har-Melech claimed the accords had brought "terror instead of peace" and called for "national correction."

The Ministerial Committee for Legislation will discuss the proposal, which seeks to cancel the landmark 1993 agreement signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Officially the "Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements," the Osla Accords were signed in the presence of PLO leader Yasser Arafat, former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, and under the sponsorship of then-US president Bill Clinton in Washington.

In a post on X, Har-Melech said, "We promised to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state, and now it is time to encourage settlement in Areas A and B and cancel the disastrous Oslo Accords."

Under the Oslo framework, Areas A and B in the occupied West Bank fall under varying degrees of administration by the Palestinian Authority, allowing for limited semi-autonomy, before moving to a two-state solution. —*ANI*

Palestinians inspect the damage in the Shati refugee camp after Israeli airstrikes targeted a house in Gaza City, on Saturday —*PTI*

ISRAELI AIRSTRIKES KILL 2 IN GAZA

An Israeli strike hit a vehicle, killing at least two people, including Col Wessam Abdel-Hadi, who heads the police investigation department, in Khan Younis, according to the Nasser hospital, which received the casualties. The vehicle was struck late Sunday morning in Al-Amal neighbourhood in the southern city of Khan Younis, said the civil defence. The Israeli military said it was reviewing the strike. At least 850 Palestinians have been killed since the October ceasefire, with Israeli bombing continuing daily.

ISRAEL DEPORTS 2 ACTIVISTS PART OF GAZA FLOTILLA

TEL AVIV, 10 MAY

Israel deported two activists on Sunday after being detained for slightly over a week for leading an aid flotilla aiming to break the Israeli naval blockade of the Gaza Strip.

The two, Spanish-Swedish citizen of Palestinian origin Saif Abukeshek and Brazilian citizen Thiago Avila, were among dozens of activists intercepted by the Israeli navy off the coast of Crete. Both are members of the Global Sumud Flotilla's steering committee, whose mission is to break Israel's naval blockade and bring some humanitarian aid to the Palestinian territory.

Although at least 175 people in 22 boats were intercepted by Israel's Navy, only Abukeshek and Avila faced detention. Reports claim they were beaten in captivity. Spain and Brazil have condemned "the kidnapping of two of their citizens" in a joint statement at the time.

The attempt came less than a year after Israeli authorities foiled a previous effort by the group, which included Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, Nelson Mandela's grandson Mandla Mandela, among 500 activists. —*PTI*

'US ACTING PARTIALLY'

At least 100 killed as Congo rebels say US ceasefire has failed

DAKAR, 10 MAY

Attacks by militants killed at least 100 people in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as a rebel leader sent a letter to US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and made public allegations claiming that Washington has failed its role as a mediator seeking to broker a ceasefire.

In one series of attacks, at least 69 people were killed in the northern Ituri province at the end of April. Two ethnic groups – the Hema and the Lendu – have been locked in a long-running violent conflict in the gold rich province a gold-rich province that borders Uganda and South Sudan. The presence of armed men affiliated with the Cooperative for the Development of the Congo (CODECO) coalition of militia groups delayed the recovery of bodies, officials said.

Meanwhile, Congolese politician Corneille Nangaa, who is associated with the Congo River Alliance, that includes the Rwanda-backed M23 rebel group, said that at least 30 people were killed on 8 May in Masisi by drones. He alleged that the Kinshasa – the DRC's capital – had sought the help of American and Colombian mercenaries.

The letter stated that the US was acting, alleging that Washington had imposed sanctions on those "critical" of the Kinshasa government, but not those within the government.

Last year, US President Donald Trump claimed to mediate a ceasefire between Congo and Rwanda, as he sought to unblock the rare earth minerals in the country. However, fighting has persisted. —*Agencies*

UN mission officials with desplaced DRC members —*X @MONUSCO*

Oil companies lost Rs 1L cr in 10 weeks amid Iran war

State-owned firms bleed money amid freeze on price hike

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

State-owned oil firms incur losses of about Rs 1,600-1,700 crore per day, amounting to over Rs 1 lakh crore in 10 weeks, to insulate Indian consumers from the global energy shock. However, the ever-widening losses are now raising questions about how long they can continue bearing the cost without financially capitulating.

Since the war broke out in West Asia 10 weeks ago, state-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) have ensured uninterrupted supplies of petrol, diesel and cooking gas LPG at rates well below cost, unlike many global energy systems that imposed rationing or passed through steep price increases.

This has resulted in the three OMCs - Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) - running record high under-recoveries (the difference between cost and retail selling price), two sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

Despite a 50 per cent surge in crude oil prices, petrol and diesel continue to be sold at rates unchanged for two years — Rs 94.77 a litre and Rs 87.67 a litre respectively. Domestic cooking gas (LPG) prices were raised by Rs 60 per cylinder in March, but remain well below the actual cost.

- Despite a 50 per cent surge in crude oil prices, petrol and diesel continue to be sold at rates unchanged for two years — Rs 94.77 a litre and Rs 87.67 a litre respectively. Domestic cooking gas (LPG) prices were raised by Rs 60 per cylinder in March, but remain well below the actual cost.

The excise duty cut has cost the government Rs 14,000 crore a month in lost revenue, sources said. Any increase in petrol and diesel prices is now a political decision for the government to make, a separate source said.

While countries like Japan or the UK have raised prices by up to 30 per cent since the start of the conflict, fuel prices in India continue at two-year-old levels *— PTI*

Crude oil prices may stay higher for longer: ADB chief

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

Crude oil prices are likely to stay higher for longer due to the disruption caused by the longer-than-expected Middle East crisis, ADB Chief Economist Albert Park has said.

Future prices are showing higher prices farther out into next year than they did before, he said.

However, he said, "We have also seen always a kind of a premium of the spot market prices and the nearby futures market because there is such a shortage currently."

Speaking about the impact of the ongoing Middle East crisis on India, Park said it is going to shave off 0.6 per cent from the country's GDP growth, bringing it to 6.3 per cent, and also stoke inflation significantly in the current financial year.

About inflation, ADB had projected 4.5 per cent for the current fiscal.

For India, Park said growth would be lower by 0.6 per cent (FY27). But it would not negatively affect growth next year. India would bounce back, he said. *—PTI*

FPIs pullout Rs 14,231 cr in May amid global jitters

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

Foreign investors continued to reduce their exposure to Indian equities, withdrawing Rs 14,231 crore so far in May amid persistent global macroeconomic uncertainties.

According to data from National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), total Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) outflows from Indian equities in 2026 have now crossed Rs 2 lakh crore, surpassing the Rs 1.66 lakh crore withdrawn during the whole of 2025.

FPIs remained net sellers in every month of 2026 except February. They pulled out Rs 35,962 crore in January before briefly turning net buyers in February, investing Rs 22,615 crore, the highest monthly inflow in 17 months.

However, the trend reversed sharply in March, when foreign investors withdrew a record Rs 1.17 lakh crore. Selling continued in April with net outflows of Rs 60,847 crore and extended into May.

Himanshu Srivastava of Morningstar said persistent concerns over inflation, interest rates and geopolitical tensions continued to weigh on sentiment towards emerging markets.

He added that elevated crude oil prices and tensions in West Asia have kept inflation concerns alive, reducing expectations of near-term global rate cuts. Firm global bond yields and pressure on the Indian rupee have also hurt the appeal of Indian equities for foreign investors. *—PTI*

'FOREIGN SELLING IN INDIAN EQUITIES NEARING EXHAUSTION'

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

Goldman Sachs has said foreign investor selling in Indian equities may be nearing exhaustion after record outflows, though a strong return of overseas capital is likely to take time amid expensive valuations, weak earnings visibility and investor preference for North Asian markets.

In its report, 'Outflows Fade, But Re-entry Waits', Goldman Sachs noted that foreign ownership in Indian equities fell to a 14-year low in the first quarter of CY26 and slipped below domestic institutional ownership for the first time in more than two decades.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have sold USD 22 billion worth of Indian equities so far in 2026, already surpassing the previous annual outflow record of USD 19 billion in 2025. Since the market peak in September 2024, cumulative foreign selling has touched a record USD 53 billion.

Despite the sustained outflows, Goldman Sachs said most of the foreign selling now appears to be behind the market, with downside risks to further outflows estimated at only USD 4-5 billion in the near term.

However, the brokerage cautioned that foreign inflows may not return immediately, even if oil prices soften.

It also highlighted weakening earnings revisions and high growth-adjusted valuations, saying India currently offers a less attractive risk-reward profile than several North Asian markets.

—ANI

—FREEPIK

FMCG firms brace for next round of price increases

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

Daily essential products such as soaps, detergents, biscuits, packaged foods, and beverages are expected to get costlier as leading FMCG companies prepare for calibrated price hikes amid rising crude-linked inflation and higher packaging costs from geopolitical disruptions that are squeezing margins.

Executives of FMCG companies — which have already raised prices by 3 to 5 per cent recently — signalled in their latest earnings calls that further hikes are either underway or being considered.

Home-grown FMCG maker Dabur India Global CEO Mohit Malhotra said the company is already facing 10 per cent inflation this fiscal and has initiated price increases to cushion the impact.

This pressure is being felt across sectors, including food, personal care, beverages and household products, as FMCG companies are attempting to balance their margins and are resorting to either price hikes or shrinking pack sizes, retaining the popular smaller SKUs of Rs 5, 10 or 15 in the market, to maintain sales volumes.

- Though FMCG companies are focusing on price elasticity and internal cost efficiencies to cushion the impact, consumers are still expected to bear part of the burden through calibrated price hikes and reduced grammage.

Though FMCG companies are focusing on price elasticity and internal cost efficiencies, such as trimming discounts and promotions, tightening inventory management, and streamlining supply chains to cushion the impact, consumers are still expected to bear part of the burden through calibrated price hikes and reduced grammage. *—PTI*

NTPC to apply for nuke feasibility study

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

Power giant NTPC will soon submit its first feasibility study for a nuclear project with the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and seek its nod to go ahead with the plan, sources said. The approval will pave the way for NTPC to begin work on its first standalone nuclear project in India, as the PSU is keen to achieve at least 2 GW of nuclear capacity by 2032.

The company is also conducting feasibility studies in two more states, and has received the Bihar government's approval for a nuclear project.

As part of its energy diversification strategy, NTPC aims to set up 30 GW of nuclear capacity across at least 14 states — requiring investments worth lakhs of crores — to contribute to the government's target of 100 GW of nuclear power by 2047.

—FREEPIK

- The approval will pave the way for power giant NTPC to begin work on its first standalone nuclear project in India by 2032.

In the nuclear segment, the company is setting up a project in joint venture with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) in Rajasthan at an investment of about Rs 42,000 crore.

NTPC has a 49 per cent stake in ASHVINI, NPCIL has the majority shareholding of 51 per cent. *—PTI*

Pidilite to up price amid 40-50% raw material inflation

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

Pidilite Industries, known for Fevicol, is contemplating another price increase due to rising raw material costs driven by ongoing tensions in West Asia, said Managing Director Sudhanshu Vats.

The company's raw material basket, which is closely linked to crude derivatives, has surged by approximately 40-50 per cent.

Vats explained, "While we managed some effects earlier, our raw material prices have gone up." Fevicol prices have already gone up 12–15 per cent.

He added, "We will pass on the increase in a calibrated fashion, focusing on growth while maintaining our EBITDA guidance of 20-24 per cent." Vats expressed hope that a temporary settlement might occur this month.

Nonetheless, he remains optimistic about FY27. *—PTI*

Mcap of four of top-10 firms erodes by Rs 1 lakh cr

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

The combined market valuation of four of the top-10 most valued firms eroded by Rs 1 lakh crore last week, with State Bank of India taking the biggest hit. Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 414.69 points or 0.53 per cent, and the NSE Nifty went up by 178.6 points or 0.74 per cent.

Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), and Larsen & Toubro saw their valuations decline, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) gained, together added Rs 46,685.21 crore in market capitalisation.

SBI, Bharti Airtel, TCS, and L&T saw their combined valuations slide by over Rs 1.09 lakh crore; the market remained buoyant for others. HDFC Bank led the gainers with a Rs 15,425.09 crore jump, followed by increases for Bajaj Finance, HUL, Reliance Industries, LIC, and ICICI Bank.

Reliance Industries remained the most valued firm, followed by HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, TCS, Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro, Hindustan Unilever and LIC. *—PTI*

'Indian consumers balancing aspiration with prudence'

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

Indian consumers are embracing purposeful spending, and balancing aspirations with financial prudence, amid evolving economic realities, a Deloitte India report said.

The trend highlights the structural resilience of the consumer base, which continues to adapt to changing market conditions without compromising on long-term lifestyle aspirations, said the latest edition of Deloitte 'Consumer Signals India Chapter'.

The report found a clear shift in Indian consumer spending with activity being concentrated in core categories, with spending beyond essentials picking up only in a few areas.

Within travel, while overall intent has eased after the festive peak, demand is shifting towards premiumisation, with value, comfort and reliability driving preferences.

Households are becoming sharper about where value lies, prioritising essentials, upgrading experiences and deferring large commitments. Improved food frugality and stable savings behaviour reinforce this shift, Ramanathan said.

The shift towards purposeful consumption, balancing aspiration with prudence pattern underscores a structurally resilient consumer base that is adapting to economic realities while continuing to seek value, quality and meaningful experiences, the report added.

India's consumer base is adapting to economic realities while continuing to seek value, quality and meaningful experiences, the report added. *—PTI*

Air India terminated 1,000+ staff in last 3 years: CEO

MUMBAI, 10 MAY

Air India has dismissed more than 1,000 employees over the past three years for ethical violations, according to CEO **Campbell Wilson**. The airline's chief highlighted that hundreds of staff are terminated annually for non-compliance, emphasising the importance of acting ethically even when unobserved.

Speaking at a staff town hall, Wilson said, "We have terminated more than 1,000 people for ethical breach," including cases of smuggling and allowing excess baggage on aircraft without charges. He noted that large-scale misuse of the Employee Leisure Travel (ELT) system had involved over 4,000 employees, prompting corrective actions and penalties.

With around 24,000 staff, Air India is implementing cost-cutting measures, including withholding annual increments and reducing discretionary spending amid financial difficulties. Wilson warned, "It's going to be a very, very difficult year if things don't improve," especially if Middle East issues persist.

The airline, part of the Tata Group, reported a loss exceeding Rs 22,000 crore for FY26. *—PTI*

FOR LASTING SOCIAL IMPACT

Mining CSR must sync with national priorities: Analysts

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

CSR initiatives in mining, metals and infrastructure sectors will fail to drive long-term transformation unless aligned with national priorities, experts warned, underscoring the need for deeper engagement amid rising scrutiny on sustainable development.

This comes as India accelerates critical minerals exploration and infrastructure under Atmanirbhar Bharat to secure supply chains for EVs, renewables, and defence, with CSR spending surpassing Rs 15,000 crore yearly in these sectors.

CSR in the mining sector must align with national priorities such as Skill India, Atmanirbhar Bharat and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to create lasting social impact. Since 2014, SECL has spent over Rs 850 crore on CSR initiatives focused on skill development, quality education, healthcare and sustainable livelihoods across coalfield regions, Coal India arm South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL) CMD Harish Duhan said.

"Our approach goes beyond infrastructure creation to empowering people, enabling women and youth, and strengthening community capabilities," he added.

Arun K Shukla, a former CMD of Hindustan Copper Ltd, said CSR efforts in mining, metals and infrastructure may fall short. According to him, the biggest challenge is not lack of funding, but lack of ownership. *—PTI*

CCI orders probe of French spirits maker, 7 others

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has ordered a detailed probe into alleged cartelisation in the Indian-made foreign liquor market, involving French spirits major Pernod Ricard and seven other entities. The seven entities that have come under the watchdog's lens are Indo Spirits, Pathway HR Solutions, Universal Distributors, Khao Gali, Bubbly Beverages, Shiv Associates and Organomix Ecosystems.

Ordering the probe, the regulator said it is of prima-facie view that Pernord Ricard's restrictive conduct with its retailers/wholesalers, purportedly, to induce brand pushing and achieve higher market share in IMFL market in Delhi, falls within the purview of 'exclusive dealing agreement' under the Competition Act.

This violates the Act, according to an order, by the Competition Commission of India (CCI). The complaint was filed before CCI in 2024.

CCI's Director General (DG) will carry out the investigation into the role of the persons/officers who were responsible for the conduct of the activities of such entities and individuals. *—PTI*

Kerala Blasters beat Mohammedan Sporting 3-1

KOCHI, 10 MAY

Kerala Blasters FC produced a dominant second-half display to secure a 3-1 victory against Mohammedan Sporting, extending their unbeaten run to five matches in the Indian Super League, here on Sunday. Goals from Francisco Feuillassier (44th minute), Víctor Bertomeu (58th), and Sreekuttan M S (74th) ensured all three points for the hosts, after Mahitosh Roy (42nd) had briefly put the visitors ahead. The result sees Ashley Westwood's side move up to eighth in the standings with 14 points from 12 matches, while Mohammedan SC remain rooted to the bottom with just three points from 11 games.Mehrajuddin Wadoo's team's fate now hinges on Chennaiyin FC's result.—*PTI*

Shahbaz bags top bid in Bengal franchise league

KOLKATA, 10 MAY

India all-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed, currently with the Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL, emerged as the costliest player on the opening day of the Bengal Pro T20 League auction after being retained by Shrachi Tribes Rarh Tigers through the Right To Match card for Rs 12.20 lakh here on Sunday. The auction, being held for the first time since the league's inception, witnessed aggressive bidding from franchises ahead of the tournament's third season, scheduled to begin in June. Among other major buys, wicketkeeper-batter Abishek was snapped by Lux Shyam Kolkata Tigers for Rs 10.40 lakh.—*PTI*

Armed Forces lead from front at Fit India on Cycle

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

The 73rd edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle turned the iconic Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium into a vibrant sea of olive green, navy white, and air force blue on Sunday morning as personnel from the defence forces joined citizens for the nationwide cycling movement. More than 800 participants took part in the event, including 60 representatives from the armed forces 20 each from the Army, Navy, and Air Force alongside athletes, fitness enthusiasts, students, and families. Fit India Sundays on Cycle is organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) in collaboration with the Cycling Federation of India (CFI).—*PTI*

-PTI

Hasan claims 5 wickets as B'desh takes lead over Pak

DHAKA, 27 FEB

Mehidy Hasan claimed five wickets with his crafty off-spin as Bangladesh fought to regain control of the first cricket test against Pakistan on Sunday. Mehidy finished with 5-102 to help Bangladesh dismiss Pakistan for 386 and take a 27-run first-innings lead on a rain-affected third day. Bangladesh then moved to 7 for no loss, stretching the overall lead to 34, before bad light forced an early close of play. Opener Azan Awais hit 103 on his debut to lead Pakistan's batsmen. Three other batters debutant Abdullah Fazal, Salman Agha, and Mohammad Rizwan hit half-centuries to complement him, but Mehidy ensured Bangladesh took the lead. Bangladesh 413 and 7 for 0 (Mahmudul 2*) lead Pakistan 386 (Awais 103, Fazal 60, Mehidy 5-102, Taijul 2-46) by 34 runs.—*PTI*

Deepika leads women's recurve team to WC gold

Heartbreak for Kaur, who lost to World No. 1 Kang

SHANGHAI, 10 MAY

The Indian trio of Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat and teenager Kumkum Mohod held their nerve in a tense shoot-off to beat home favourites China and clinch the women's recurve team gold medal at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 here on Sunday.

In a final marked by fluctuating fortunes, India edged out the home side 5-4 (28-26) in the shoot-off after the four-set regulation ended 4-4.

There was, however, heartbreak for Simranjeet Kaur, who lost to World No. 1 and eventual champion Kang Chaeyoung of South Korea in straight sets in the semifinal, before going down to another Korean, Jang Minhee, in the playoff for the bronze medal.

India thus ended their campaign with two medals -- one gold and one bronze-- the latter coming through Sahil Jadhav in the men's individual compound section on Saturday.

Led by four-time Olympian Deepika, India were inconsistent and almost let it slip after taking the first set.

Trailing 2-4, India were on the verge of defeat, but the relatively inexperienced Chinese side, comprising two 21-year-olds in Zhu Jingyi, Huang Yuwei and teenager Yu Qi failed to wrap it up in the fourth set.

Needing a nine in the final arrow, the 18-year-old Yu Qi slipped to 8-ring, giving the Indians a lucky escape as the trio peaked well to win the ensuing shoot-off by two points.

The 17-year-old Kumkum, who made her World Cup debut in Puebla last month, shot a splendid 10, after Ankita started with a 9, while Deepika calmed her nerves to seal the gold with a 9 in the final arrow of the shoot-off.

The victory was especially sweeter as India had earlier stunned record 10-time Olympic champions South Korea in the semifinals en route to their first World Cup women's team gold since 2021.

Deepika, who was also part of India's World Cup-winning teams in Guatemala City and Paris in 2021, now has seven World Cup team gold medals to her name since 2010.

It was also the Indian women's recurve team's first World Cup medal in three years, its previous podium finish coming in Stage 4 in Paris in 2023, where Ankita was a member of the winning team.

Travelling without a full-time national coach amid the impasse over appointments, Deepika led from the front, constantly motivating her teammates during breaks and changeovers.

Prafull Dange, who was the designated women's recurve coach after his ward Kumkum topped the national trials, largely remained in the background as Deepika guided the side through the pressure moments against a hostile home crowd and vocal Chinese support staff. —*PTI*

India women's team bags gold at Archery World Cup -*ARCHERY PREMIER LEAGUE*

Deepika Kumari -*PTI*

ADMITS DOPING CONCERNS

Turnout of 1,400 at Gonda shows no bias, says WFI

GONDA, 10 MAY

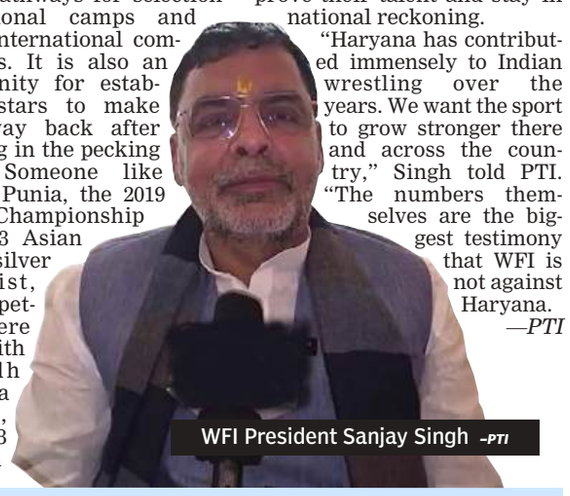
WFI President Sanjay Singh on Sunday said the overwhelming participation of Haryana wrestlers in the ongoing National Open Ranking Tournament debunks allegations that the federation is biased against the state, while also admitting that Indian wrestling still faces a serious doping problem after used syringes were found at the competition venue here.

Around 1,400 wrestlers have registered for the three-day tournament, and nearly 80 per cent of them are from Haryana, the country's traditional wrestling powerhouse.

As many as 650 wrestlers are competing in the men's freestyle event here on Sunday in 593 bouts scheduled for the day. The National Open Ranking Tournament is a key domestic event as it determines pathways for selection to national camps and future international competitions. It is also an opportunity for established stars to make their way back after dropping in the pecking order. Someone like Deepak Punia, the 2019 World Championship and 2023 Asian Games silver medallist, is competing here along with Anirudh Gulia (125kg), the 2023 Asian Championship bronze winner.

The issue assumes significance because in 2021, the then-WFI administration had changed its policy to disallow more than one team from a state in the National Championships. It was a move that was widely perceived as targeting Haryana, which had traditionally fielded both A and B teams because of its extraordinary depth in wrestling talent. Haryana state associations had criticised the move, saying they were being targeted. Singh said Haryana remains the backbone of Indian wrestling and the federation wants strong participation from every state, especially those which consistently produce international-level wrestlers. According to WFI, the Ranking tournament was launched only for the benefit of Haryana so that worthy ones get a second chance to prove their talent and stay in national reckoning.

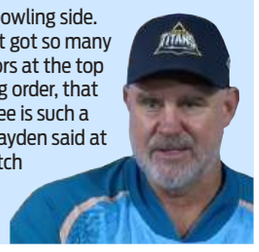
"Haryana has contributed immensely to Indian wrestling over the years. We want the sport to grow stronger there and across the country," Singh told PTI. "The numbers themselves are the biggest testimony that WFI is not against Haryana. —*PTI*



WFI President Sanjay Singh -*PTI*

GT has got apex predators at the top of the order: Hayden

Gujarat Titans batting coach Matthew Hayden believes they possess a destructive bowling attack and are loaded with "apex predators" at the top of the order, with the side beginning to peak at the right time in the Indian Premier League. The Titans have won four matches on the trot, including a 77-run victory over the Rajasthan Royals here on Saturday, to move into second spot as the race for the playoffs intensifies. "It is a very good team. It is a dangerous bowling side, and that is what we have seen tonight. It can be a very destructive bowling side. "We have just got so many apex predators at the top of the batting order, that one, two, three is such a solid unit," Hayden said at the post-match press conference.



Rishabh Pant blames poor fielding for loss against CSK

Lucknow Super Giants skipper Rishabh Pant said they had enough runs on the board, but poor fielding proved costly during their five-wicket loss to Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday. Josh Inglis played a sensational 85-run knock before CSK bowlers rallied to stop LSG at 203 for eight. CSK then rode on a swashbuckling knock from Urvil Patel (65 off 23 balls) to overhaul the target in 19.2 overs. LSG thus suffered their eighth loss in 11 matches to end their playoff chances. It was a great game. Everything was coming up nicely. We knew we would be put under pressure in the power play. When you come to Chennai, that is the kind of cricket you expect.

Italian Open: Casper Ruud defeats Jiri Lehecka

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

Casper Ruud showcased his trademark clay-court proficiency on Sunday, dispatching 13th-ranked Jiri Lehecka 6-3, 6-4 in the third round of Rome 2026.

The 25th-ranked Norwegian required just one hour and 19 minutes to dismantle his higher-ranked opponent and secure his spot in the next stage.

The victory underscores a steady European clay swing for Ruud. Despite a recent quarterfinal exit against Alexander Blockx and a third-round retirement against Felix Auger-Aliassime. —*PTI*

Urvil blitz helps CSK beat LSG by five wickets

CHENNAI, 10 MAY

Five-time champions Chennai Super Kings rode on Urvil Patel's explosive 23-ball 65 to beat Lucknow Super Giants by five wickets in a tense IPL clash and keep their playoff hopes alive here on Sunday.

Urvil equalled Yashasvi Jaiswal's record for the fastest IPL fifty by an Indian, reaching the landmark in just 13 balls, as he smashed eight sixes and two fours to power CSK's chase of 204.

The young batter's fearless assault put CSK firmly in control before the hosts lost wickets in clusters during the middle overs, allowing LSG to claw their way back into the contest.

There were anxious moments towards the end, but Prashant Veer, who survived two dropped catches on 9, and Shivam Dube, who hit 15 not out off just seven balls, took CSK past the target.

The win lifted CSK into the top five of the points table, ahead of Rajasthan Royals on net run rate, with three league matches remaining.

Put in to bat, Lucknow Super Giants had a blazing start with Josh Inglis smashing a 33-ball 85 (10x4, 6x6).

PBKS VS DC @ Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium

7.30 pm IST

Brief Scores

Lucknow Super Giants: 203/8 in 20 overs (Josh Inglis 85, Shahbaz Ahmed 43 not out; Jamie Overton 3/36, Anshul Kamboj 2/47). Chennai Super Kings: 208/5 in 19.2 overs (Urvil Patel 65, Ruturaj Gaikwad 42; Digvesh Rathi 2/45).

PBKS seek course correction against deflated DC

Punjab Kings would be aiming to arrest their surprising slide towards the business end of the Indian Premier League when they host an out-of-sorts Delhi Capitals in the picturesque environment of Dharamsala here on Monday. Finishing the home leg with three games at the HPCA Stadium till May 17, the Punjab Kings would be eyeing an improvement in all departments following defeats in their last three league games. There is no need to press the panic button for a team that was the only unbeaten side in the competition not so long ago, but it really needs to get its basics right for the remainder of the league stage. Momentum is key in a fickle format like the T20s, and the Punjab Kings would want that on their side as early as the next game. —*PTI*

Neeru and Vivaan win mixed team bronze in WC Shotgun

NEW DELHI, 10 MAY

Neeru Dhanda and Vivaan Kapoor signed off with a bronze medal in the trap mixed team event as India ended its campaign at the ISSF World Cup Shotgun on a positive note in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on Sunday.

The medal was the first ISSF World Cup podium finish for Neeru and Vivaan in the Olympic event and India's second since mixed team trap was added to the Olympic programme last year.

Neeru and Vivaan shot 24 out of the first 30 targets in the final, and despite matching the top Italian pair of Silvana Stanco and Mauro De Filippis, they had to miss out on a better medal, having finished second to the silver-winning Italians in qualification.

Chinese Taipei's Kun-Pi Yang and Wan-Yu Liu won a second World Cup gold with a world record score of 36 in the final. —*PTI*

Super Rapid and Blitz: Gukesh ends sixth; Niemann wins

WARSAW, 10 MAY

World champion D Gukesh had to be content with a sixth-place finish while Hans Moke Niemann of the United States kept his nerves towards the end to win the Super rapid and blitz, a part of the Grand Chess Tour.

Gukesh ended his stint with 17 points out of a possible 36 that included 9 rapid and 18 blitz games. With each rapid game win worth two points and blitz one point, Gukesh scored nine points in rapid and eight points in blitz.

Things could have been worse, but Gukesh won the last round against Duda Jan-Kryzsztztof of Poland to finish around the middle bracket. It may be recalled that Gukesh had withdrawn from the main events of GCT and will only be playing the rapid and blitz this year. The youngest ever world champion is also slated to play his match against Javokhir Sindarov of the United States later this year, apart from the Norway chess tournament.

Meanwhile, Hans Niemann showed his steely nerves and won the last two rounds to finish on 22.5 points, which was enough to clinch the trophy as well as the first prize of 50000 USD. —*PTI*

TUMAKURU OPEN ITF W35

Justina Mikulskyte crowned singles champ

TUMKUR, 10 MAY

Top seed Justina Mikulskyte was crowned champion of the ITF W35 Tumakuru Open on Sunday after second seed Zuzanna Pawlikowska was forced to retire due to injury in the singles final at the Tumakuru District Tennis Association courts.

Pawlikowska, who had already withdrawn from the doubles final on Saturday owing to a shoulder injury, showed tremendous courage by taking the court for the title clash despite the discomfort. However, after the opening game, the Polish player was unable to continue, bringing a premature end to the summit clash and disappointing the large gathering of spectators who had turned up expecting a thrilling finale between the top two seeds. The title marked the eighth ITF singles crown for Mikulskyte, adding another milestone to an impressive season on the international circuit.

Along with the trophy, the Lithuanian pocketed a winner's cheque of USD 4,860 and earned 35 valuable WTA ranking points. Pawlikowska, meanwhile, received USD 2,637 and 23 WTA points for finishing runner-up.Speaking at the ceremony, Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, who had contributed USD 30,000 towards the prize money, reiterated his vision of promoting sports among the youth and transforming Tumakuru into a sporting hub.

"I want to see a drug-free state, and one of the best ways to engage youngsters positively is through sports. It is our vision to transform Tumakuru into a sports city by creating opportunities and infrastructure for athletes," he said. —*PTI*

Japan lands Qatar in a tough 2027 AC group draw

RIYADH, 10 MAY

Four-time winner Japan was grouped with defending champion Qatar at the 2027 Asian Cup in the draw.

Saudi Arabia will host the 24-team tournament for the first time from 7 Jan 5 to Feb.

The Asian Football Confederation will be hoping the competition will be held without any further complications. The draw was originally set for April 11 but was postponed because of the conflict in the Middle East. The final field is still incomplete because the Lebanon-Yemen match was not played as scheduled on March 31 and has been postponed to June.

As well as Qatar, the champion in 2019 and 2023, Japan will take on Indonesia and Thailand in Group F.

"Japan is one of the leaders in Asian football, always," Qatar coach Julen Lopetegui said. "They have quality players, and we have to believe in ourselves." Saudi Arabia, which will also stage the 2034 World Cup, will face Kuwait, Oman, and the Palestinian team in an all-West Asia group as it seeks to win the title for the first time since 1996.—*PTI*